

5

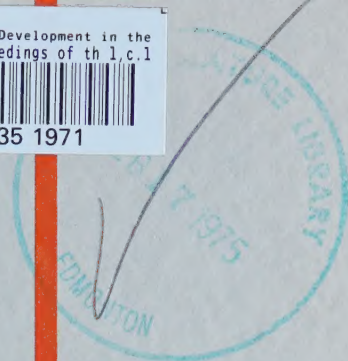
CA2 ALEV 5  
1973P66  
part 10A  
c.1

USE

CA2 ALEV 15 1973P0591  
Land Use and Resource Development in the  
Eastern Slopes, Proceedings of th l.c.1



3 3398 00135 1971



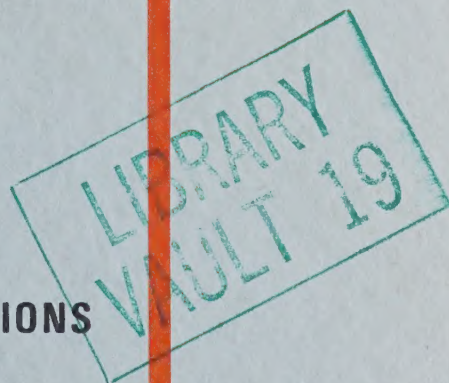
and  
**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES**

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

JUNE - JULY, 1973

PART X-A

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2024 with funding from  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library



**LAND USE**  
**and**  
**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**IN THE EASTERN SLOPES**

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**JUNE - JULY, 1973**

**PART X-A**


**SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS**



**ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

2100 COLLEGE PLAZA TOWER 3  
8215 112th STREET, EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2M4





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2024 with funding from  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library



THE PROCEEDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN THIRTEEN VOLUMES, EACH CONTAINING A TOTAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION HELD IN THE LOCATIONS DESIGNATED BELOW:

OLDMAN RIVER BASIN

COLEMAN, JUNE 11 & 12	-	PART I
LETHBRIDGE, JUNE 13 & 14	-	PART II

BOW RIVER BASIN

CALGARY, JUNE 18	-	PART III - A
CALGARY, JUNE 19 & 20	-	PART III - B
CANMORE, JUNE 22 & 23	-	PART IV

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, JUNE 26	-	PART V
RED DEER, JUNE 28 & 29	-	PART VI

ATHABASCA RIVER BASIN

HINTON, JULY 3	-	PART VII
EDMONTON, JULY 5, 6 & 7	-	PART VIII

SMOKY RIVER BASIN

GRANDE CACHE, JULY 10	-	PART IX
GRANDE PRAIRIE, JULY 12	-	

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

-	PART X - A
	PART X - B

COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL AND TOURIST  
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

-	PART XI
---	---------

COPIES OF THESE VOLUMES  
ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO:

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2100 COLLEGE PLAZA, TOWER 3  
8215 - 112 STREET  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA. T6G 2M4  
PRICE: \$4.00 PER VOLUME  
\$40.00 PER COMPLETE SET  
SEPTEMBER, 1974.

## FOREWORD

Geographically, Alberta is a land of diversity. From the dry irrigated croplands of the south through the lush farming and ranching country of central Alberta to the sparsely settled wildlands of the north the landscape presents a constantly changing panorama.

Nowhere, however, is diversity more apparent than in the approach to the Rockies. There indeed, as one enters the region of the Eastern Slopes, Alberta takes on its most dramatic change.

As though to prepare one in advance for the enormity of the Rocky Mountains, the landscape assumes a rolling gait as the farmlands and ranchlands of the plains give way to the forested areas of the foothills.

In this area, which has come to be known as the Eastern Slopes, lands have been mostly protected and preserved for public ownership in the name of the Crown, and important national and provincial parks are located here.

To many Albertans, the Eastern Slopes represent an area of, as yet, relatively undisturbed forests which should be preserved in their natural state for posterity.

To others, the area represents a bountiful supply of valuable resources which should be developed to the benefit of Albertans.

Some others view the Eastern Slopes in the light of combined benefits and hope that they can be made to yield their riches without prejudice to the natural state.

Of the treasures that reside in the Eastern Slopes, recreation ranks high in the minds of many people and indeed, recreation in its many forms is now enjoyed in the Eastern Slopes in both winter and summer by many thousands of people each year.



In addition, land in the Eastern Slopes is now used or is proposed for use for such purposes as tourism, urban development, forest utilization, mineral resource industries, surface mining, oil and gas development, underground coal mining, agriculture, watershed conservation, domestic water supplies, hydroelectric power developments, wildlife and fishing management, wilderness and natural areas, institutional use by charitable, religious and other groups, archaeological sites, research, Indian reservations and national and provincial parks.

These various present and potential uses of resources within the area may either have no effect on each other, complement each other, conflict with each other, or relate to each other in sequential ways.

In order to publicly explore these interests and discover the concerns they generate, the Environment Conservation Authority was requested on behalf of the Government of Alberta to hold comprehensive and wide-ranging hearings on Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes.

It was the objective of the hearings to enquire into all potential uses and to formulate ways in which optimum benefits and environment conservation could be achieved now and for the future from the various resources of the Eastern Slopes.

A further objective was to consider and evaluate the views of the public on specific recreational and tourist development proposals for the area. Finally, the Authority would lay the views presented to it, along with its own recommendations thereon, before the Government of Alberta.

For the purpose of the public hearings, the Eastern Slopes were divided into five separate districts corresponding to the five major watershed basins and outlined by the statutory boundaries of the four Regional Planning Areas and Improvement District No. 14.

The eastern boundary of the area was taken as the eastern edge of the foothills, prescribed by an arc lying to the west of the cities of Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton and Grande Prairie.

As background to the hearings, the Environment Conservation Authority released a series of 12 Information Bulletins; five of these pertained specifically to the separate watershed basins and were prepared by the individual regional planning commissions.

Hearings were held (during June and July of 1973) in each of the watershed basins as well as in the five major cities.

The present publication constitutes the Proceedings of the Public Hearings on Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes. A separate volume has been allocated for each location, and each volume contains a complete transcript of all presentations heard at that location as well as the discussions which followed.

In addition, a final volume contains all written submissions which were received prior to and following the hearings, but which were not presented verbally at the hearings, along with an index to all volumes.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The contribution that a public hearing can make to the advancement of any subject depends very largely on the submissions, briefs and presentations made to it by members of the public.

The Environment Conservation Authority is particularly appreciative of the efforts of the very large number of individuals, groups and associations that contributed both orally and in writing to its series of hearings on Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes.

For those who prepare submissions it is most desirable that they have ready access to relevant information on the subject. This involves not only compiling and presenting the information in an acceptable form, but also distributing it widely to the interested public.

In this most important aspect of the work leading up to the public hearings the Authority received considerable assistance from the Regional Planning Commissions of the individual watershed basins covered by the hearings.

Not only did the officers and staffs of these commissions prepare comprehensive and highly informative position statements on behalf of the Authority for each basin, but at each location a senior official of the commission presented the position statement to the Authority at the beginning of the hearing, and most ably responded to the detailed questioning which followed.

For these invaluable services the Authority expresses its sincere thanks to the officials and staff of the Oldman River, Calgary, Red Deer, and Peace River Regional Planning Commissions and Improvement District No. 14 of the Provincial Planning Branch.

Further very important information of value to those preparing briefs was produced by a special *ad hoc* committee of the Authority's Science Advisory Committee. For the very able discussions and recommendations on land use conflicts which they presented in Information Bulletin No. 12 the Authority wishes to compliment and thank the members of this committee.

In locating, setting up and operating its extensive chain of information centres throughout the province the efforts of the Authority would have been frustrated without the willing co-operation and expert assistance of a number of people and organizations.

To the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary and Alberta, the Regional Planning Commissions of Oldman River, Calgary, Red Deer and Peace River, the Community Colleges of Lethbridge, Red Deer and Peace River, and the public libraries of Blairmore, Coleman, Calgary, Canmore, Drumheller, Edmonton, Edson, Grande Cache, Grande Prairie, Hinton, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Peace River, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Wetaskiwin and Whitecourt, and their staff, the Authority expresses its sincere thanks.

The Authority also gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the Conservation and Utilization Committee of the Government of Alberta for their fine pre-hearing report, "A Choice of Land Use Alternatives", and the Department of Lands and Forests for their assistance in processing the many commercial proposals for tourism and recreational projects as well as for providing a competent addition to the Authority's observer staff for the hearings.

Finally, to its own staff, whose unfailing support and tireless efforts sustained the many extended sessions of the hearings, the Authority takes pride in expressing its gratitude.

W.R. TROST,  
Chairman,  
Environment Conservation Authority.



## PART X-A

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
INTRODUCTION.....	xviii

#### SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

R. McDONALD.....	1141
WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
G. Casey.....	1143
C. SULLIVAN.....	1145
B. BURNER.....	1147
DR. G. GODKIN.....	1148
MISS. C. HOOVER.....	1149
V. MUNCASTER.....	1151
W. McDONALD.....	1153
E. HOGEMANN.....	1154
R. & S. AFFLECK.....	1155
I. PALMER.....	1156
T. SUGDEN.....	1157
E. PSHYK.....	1158
J. EDWARDS.....	1160
R. BOYS.....	1163
MRS. D. OLSON.....	1165
A. BACHMANN & FAMILY.....	1166
W. REGAN.....	1167
MR. & MRS. J. MATH.....	1168
MR. & MRS. H. DIXON.....	1169

MR. & MRS. R. CASPELL.....	1170
N. HELFRICH.....	1171
D. REGNIER.....	1172
MRS. F. MEYERS.....	1173
MRS. G. INGLIS.....	1174
MS. G. MEYERS.....	1176
MR. C. MEYERS.....	1177
D. STRANGE.....	1178
MS. G. DYNES.....	1179
R. BOYS.....	1180
W. SWANSON.....	1181
G. McATHEY.....	1183
J. GOOD.....	1185
J. WRIGHT.....	1187
P. RANDELL.....	1190
MISS T. DELANE & W. SHAPP.....	1191
N. SHADDOCK.....	1193
J. STEINER.....	1196
MS. D. LOUIE-BYNE.....	1197
DEVON FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
S. Lachman.....	1200
TOWN OF CARSTAIRS.....	1201
TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF CALGARY	
J. Pierce.....	1203
PALISADE SNOWMOBILE DISTRIBUTORS LTD.	
G. Dillabough.....	1205
F. STROMSTEDT.....	1206
MRS. S. MURRAY.....	1208
C. KURE.....	1210
MS. H. HARRIS.....	1212



LINDSAY THURBER COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL	
Miss. C. Hallgren.....	1213
MRS. C. KOVACH.....	1215
MS. E. COOPER.....	1217
MRS. J. GOOD.....	1218
CAMP CHAMISALL	
H. Heerema.....	1221
MRS. J. STURROCK, MRS. R. ESPLIN, & MRS. D. DINON.....	1223
D. VOELKER.....	1225
W. ABRAHAMSON.....	1226, 1228, 1231
MS. D. STOYKA.....	1233
P. SMEREK.....	1234
G. SCULLY.....	1235
D. GRATTAN.....	1237
G. VAILLANT, MS. E. HISCOCK, & A. VAILLANT.....	1238
J. FREW.....	1239
A.A. FISHER HOLDINGS LTD.	
A.A. Fisher.....	1241
MS. L. MURDOCK.....	1243
S. JONSSON.....	1245
J. MOREAU.....	1247
A. PIERSON.....	1248
M. SPENCER.....	1250
MRS. J. JOHNSTON.....	1253
G. CARMICHAEL.....	1255
A. SAMEK & MS. J. SAMEK.....	1256
AVENGER SPORTS & EQUIPMENT LTD.....	1258
ALBERTA TRAPPER'S ASSOCIATION	
J. Robinson.....	1260
R. SMITH & MS. M. SMITH.....	1262

F. GRAY.....	1266
P. GARDNER.....	1267
PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH	
D. Rawson.....	1269
D. BARNES.....	1272
TURNER VALLEY SCHOOL STUDENTS.....	1274
D. FOREST.....	1296
H. SMITH & MS. I. SMITH.....	1298
D. BOAG.....	1299
A. MacKENZIE.....	1300
V. MAYSON.....	1301
A. REINHOLDT.....	1302
MISS L. TURBAYNE.....	1304
T. ANDERSON.....	1308
MRS. E. PARKER.....	1309
G. GUSTAVSON.....	1311
MS. K. GARDNER.....	1314
MISS R. TRIMBLE.....	1318
MRS. J. TRIMBLE.....	1320
R. TRIMBLE.....	1322
J. WEISS.....	1324
J. JOHNSEN.....	1327
MS. T. WILLIAMS & B. OLSON.....	1330
J. REDMOND.....	1331
M. MATSON.....	1333
R. MISKEY.....	1335
MRS. H. KROETCH.....	1336
MS. E. COATES.....	1337
R. HOLMAN.....	1338
P. HARTY.....	1339
D. ALLEN.....	1340
MS. E. SHANNON.....	1341

MARKERVILLE SNOW DRIFTERS	
R. Anderson.....	1342
K. DOLPHIN.....	1343
H. RHODES.....	1344
G. LAWRENCE.....	1346
VILLAGE OF BOWDEN.....	1347
H. KNOESS.....	1348
L. LIVINGSTONE & FAMILY.....	1349
MR. & MRS. LIVINGSTONE.....	1350
MRS. M. NELSON.....	1351
MS. L. MORCK.....	1352
MS. M. O'RIORDAN.....	1354
MRS. F. RUSSELL.....	1356
L. SCHMIDEK.....	1357
MRS. J. CROSBY.....	1359
MR. & MRS. J. WELZBACHER.....	1360
ALBERTA BICYCLE ASSOCIATION	
Ms. P. Timperley.....	1361
S. KUBASEK.....	1362
R. MORRISH.....	1363
R. BROWN.....	1364
MR. & MRS. E. TARBAY.....	1365
D. & D. RUNCIMAN.....	1366
A. BARVIR FAMILY.....	1371
C. FORD.....	1372
MR. & MRS. A. MARTIN.....	1373
W. KEHLER.....	1374
J. DONALD.....	1376
H. BRYANT.....	1377
BURNS COAL MINES LIMITED	
J. Marshall.....	1379



MS. J. FOWLER.....	1388
NATIONAL TRAIL.....	1390
O. MORCK.....	1394
E. CUNNINGHAM.....	1395
BAWLf HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS 10 CLASS.....	1402
MS. B. BURNS.....	1409
D. HAMER.....	1411
MISS. A. FOSTY.....	1414
GRANDE CACHE SADDLE CLUB.....	1418
MS. P. BONNETT, MS. B. DANIEL, MS. E. NAZAR.....	1419
H. KROGH.....	1422
 CASTOR FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION	
J. Wright.....	1423
 ALBERTA TRAIL RIDING ASSOCIATION	
J. McDonald.....	1426
R. SALANT.....	1431
MRS. D. CROWTHER.....	1432
 GRANDE PRAIRIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
J. Powers.....	1433
DR. C. BIRD.....	1438
L. PLANTE.....	1442
G. LOVERING.....	1444
MS. J. SHEPPARD.....	1447
 INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA	
H. Cardinal.....	1451
SPRING BANKS SCHOOL - BIOLOGY 20-30 CLASS MEMBERS.....	1456
 BOW VALLEY NATURALISTS' CLUB	
H. Nelson, G. & L. Toseland.....	1484
W. & J. WASLENCHUK.....	1486

J. LICKISS.....	1491
INNISFAIL FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
G. Sanders.....	1501
G.& B. BLOEMHOF.....	1503
E. GROSSO.....	1506
ECKVILLE FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION.....	1509

## PART X-B

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
INTRODUCTION.....	xviii

### SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

PONOKA FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
G. Hrycyk and R. Cave.....	1511
R. LOOMIS.....	1516
N. HART.....	1549
B. DITCHBURN.....	1553
SYLVAN LAKE & DISTRICT FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
R. Albert and W. LUND.....	1556
Mrs. D. Newell.....	1558
D. McCOY.....	1567
SARCEE FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
F. Bryce Chase.....	1569
B. FRANKCOMBE.....	1571
PEMBINA RIVER FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
L. Leyh.....	1575

MS. J. COLE.....	1578
D. WALES.....	1584
J. FARGEY.....	1589
MRS. P. BROWN.....	1591
CASEMENT & HANNA FAMILIES.....	1592
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON CHAPTER & DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA	
J. Brink.....	1595
MS. I. YELLE.....	1599
E. SHELTON.....	1600
D. ROBERTSON; A.,E.,B., & J. JOHNSON; & B. BALLHORN.....	1602
MRS. D. HAYLEY.....	1606
DR. H & MRS. M. BUCKMASTER.....	1609
J. BRONS.....	1618
TOWN OF RIMBEY.....	1622
PEMBINA OILFIELD FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION.....	1624
MS. I CHALLBORN.....	1626
EDMONTON FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
M. Radvony.....	1650
MISS V. DAYE.....	1653
OLDS & DISTRICT FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION	
W. Nickel.....	1655
C. JOHNSON.....	1664
DUNVEGAN FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION.....	1670
R. WESTERGAARD.....	1673
ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS, PRAIRIES BRANCH	
G. Heald.....	1675
PARKLAND COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL, MEMBERS OF STUDENT BODY	
D. WoeppeI and J. Tanghe.....	1680
MISS A. McKENDRICK.....	1682
B. CUNNINGHAM.....	1687



SIERRA CLUB OF ALBERTA	
P. Vermeullen.....	1693
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
G. Hawley.....	1708
ALBERTA GREAT WEST COUNTRY VACATIONS ASSOCIATION	
Mrs. L. Castleman.....	1709
BOWDEN AND DISTRICT FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION	
W. Berggren.....	1717
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
H. Sherk.....	1719
CANADIAN YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION	
D. Lewis.....	1721
A. BENZ.....	1723, 1727
CANADIAN YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION, MOUNTAIN REGION CYCLE CLUB	
T. Gamble.....	1732
EDMONTON YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION	
G. Singleton.....	1733
D. BIRRELL.....	1734
D. WIGHTON, MS. P. WIGHTON, MS. C. WIGHTON.....	1739
MS. D. SMITH PATCHING.....	1755
CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY, ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION	
Dr. A. Lomen.....	1766
P. MURPHY.....	1775
HUSKY OIL OPERATIONS LTD.	
J. Tait.....	1778
B. ROTTENFUSER.....	1785
MS. B. BOUTIN.....	1793
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CLASS (PHYS. ED. 389)	
D. Mikaso.....	1794

DR. G. HANKINS.....	1795
R. JOHNSTON.....	1797
J. HAMILTON.....	1798
D. MALCOLM.....	1799
MISS E. McMURTRY.....	1802
MR. & MRS. E. MOODY.....	1803
ALBERTA-NORTHWEST CHAMBER, MINES-OILS-RESOURCES	
J. Chesney.....	1804
MS. W. NICOLS.....	1809
C. CHANDLESS.,.....	1815
GREAT WEST VACATIONS ASSOCIATION	
Mrs. L. Castleman.....	1816
M. TOZER, G. TOZER & MRS. R. TOZER.....	1818
K. RUTTLE.....	1819
D. GEE.....	1820
N. NEELANDS.....	1821
J. MANNIX.....	1822
B. TITCOMB.....	1823
SNOW ANGELS	
Ms. B. Boutin.....	1824
H. McCABE.....	1825
R. BROWN.....	1826
E. GREENWOOD.....	1827
ALBERTA MOTOR ASSOCIATION.....	1829
TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA.....	1832
MRS. C. PRYOR.....	1836
D. LAHODA.....	1838
SHERWOOD PARK SNOWMOBILE CLUB	
Mrs. J. Wandzura.....	1843
ALBERTA TRAPPER'S ASSOCIATION, EDSON CHAPTER	
E. Anderson.....	1845

C. LOVE .....	1848
MS. T. HABGOOD .....	1851
ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS, LAND USE COMMITTEE	
J. Gaetz, N. Mackay, W. Grant .....	1854
MR. & MRS. J. REID .....	1857
MR. & MRS. C. MASUR .....	1859
J. MAREAN .....	1864
LIBERAL PARTY OF ALBERTA	
R. Russell .....	1871
A. FULLERTON .....	1875
L. TRAVER .....	1876
W. LUND .....	1879
MISS L. TURBAYNE .....	1882
WILD KAKWA	
C.A. Ross .....	1884
R.K. Shaw .....	1886
J.O. Wheeler .....	1891
W. Wilson .....	1892
C. Chattaway .....	1893
P. Davidson .....	1895
SUPPLEMENTARY PROPOSALS .....	1898
INDEX .....	1903
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS .....	1933





**LAND USE**  
**and**  
**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**IN THE EASTERN SLOPES**

**INTRODUCTION**



**ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**





## INTRODUCTION

The Environment Conservation Authority was requested by the Honourable W.J. Yurko, Minister of the Environment, to hold public hearings on land use and resource development in Alberta's eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. These hearings took place during June and July, 1973 in Coleman, Lethbridge, Calgary, Canmore, Rocky Mountain House, Red Deer, Hinton, Edmonton, Grande Cache and Grande Prairie.

### PREPARATION FOR THE HEARINGS

In order to place background information before the public, a series of information bulletins was published. Five of these were prepared by the relevant regional planning commissions and the Provincial Planning Board, and dealt specifically with their sections of the eastern slopes. The additional bulletins were produced by the Authority or by various involved agencies.

A very extensive mailing of this material was made to interested groups, organizations and individuals. As well, a system of information centres was established in each of the hearing locations as well as in other relevant locations. These centres were supplied with sets of background publications, as well as a reading list and bibliography on the hearing subject.

Direct public contact was developed and maintained through Authority member visits throughout the study area and through continual contact with the various sections of the media.

Advertising for the hearings took various forms. Newspapers contained general notices inviting participation, specific advertisements advising of local times and locations, and "legal" notices listing what commercial recreational proposals would be discussed at specific hearing locations. Radio and television were utilized in much the same manner to inform and invite public participation.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

The dates and places of the hearings were as follows:

Coleman	June 11 and 12
Lethbridge	June 13 and 14
Calgary	June 18, 19 and 20
Canmore	June 22 and 23
Rocky Mountain House	June 26
Red Deer	June 28 and 29
Hinton	July 3
Edmonton	July 5, 6 and 7
Grande Cache	July 10
Grande Prairie	July 12

At each of the hearings the session was opened with introductory remarks by the Authority. The regional planning commission, or the Provincial Planning Branch in the instance of Improvement District No. 14, was then called upon to give background to the concerns and problems of the area involved.

The Authority then heard briefs or summaries presented by concerned individuals and groups. The panel, consisting of: Dr. W.R. Trost, Chairman; P.J. Dowling, Vice-Chairman; and J.J. Kinisky, Member; questioned those persons submitting concerns in order to fully elucidate the concepts and opinions put forward by them.

Major proposals for development in the study area were presented following the general submissions. Here the opportunity was given for the developers to highlight their projects. They were then questioned by the Authority panel, then by interested persons in attendance at the hearing.

The last segment of the hearing at each location was given to open discussion, during which a free exchange of ideas and concerns took place.

A total of 308 submissions was made as well as 14 commercial recreational proposals.

**LAND USE**

**and**

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**IN THE EASTERN SLOPES**

**SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS**



**ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**





LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Ralph C. McDonald

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I would like to express my views concerning land use and future development on the Eastern Slopes, and particularly the North Saskatchewan River Basin.

I am a rancher in the Strachan district 20 miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House, and I have a grazing allotment in the Clearwater Forest Reserve.

My parents came to this district in 1907. They, along with other settlers, grazed their cattle on Crown land before the forest reserve was established.

With the formation of the reserve, specific grazing areas were set up and allotted to individual families. Strict rules were enforced and allotments were subject to periodic and yearly inspection. The number of cattle allotted to an area is based on the estimated carrying capacity, divided in half to ensure a grass cover for wild game.

I would like to stress the fact that until the time of the Second World War there was an abundance of fish and game animals in all areas. These animals consisted of moose and mule deer. Elk did not appear in the areas west of Strachan until the early thirties and white-tailed deer within the last ten years.

Before the war this country was inaccessible except in fall and winter. The hunting season opened the first of November and lasted until the 15th of December. As the cattle were moved out the first of October people were unaware of their presence there.

With the coming of the lumber industry roads were built farther and farther back, which made the country more accessible to hunters and the public at large.

The streams were fished out and the game pushed farther back to the mountains.

The coming of the oil industry only served to accelerate what was already happening.

The foothills country west of Strachan and in fact the whole Clearwater Forest is now a network of roads, seismic lines, and lastly the power line from the Big Horn Dam cuts right through the area.

As can be seen from the accompanying maps the lines and roads are concentrated more in some areas than others, but they are everywhere in the whole Clearwater Forest.

These lines and roads have had a twofold effect on the country and wildlife.

Firstly they have made almost every area accessible to hunters, with a resultant decline in game population. Coupled with this is the fact that the hunting season now is open from September to December.

Secondly, every one of these lines and roads have been seeded to tame grass, which means a big increase in available forage.

A big majority of these lines are in areas where cattle never go, so this forage is there for game animals summer and winter. I do not think that cattle are in competition for feed with a declining game population now, when they were not in the past when game was plentiful.

In my opinion some areas on the west side of the Reserve, which are still more or less untouched, should be left as they are and made into a wilderness area. But I think the bulk of the Clearwater Forest is too rich in natural resources that we can afford not to use them.

I believe the multiple use concept is a good one if proper controls are implemented. After all, there is absolutely nothing to stop people from camping in, or just driving through the area at the present time.

Among all our renewable resources, grass is the most valuable. It is there every year, and if looked after will be there a thousand years from now, when the coal, the oil and gas and possibly the timber have been long gone.

In a world hungry for protein, I think every available acre of grass is going to have to be utilized, and grazing should be ranked high on the list of priorities when any decision is made as to land use on the Eastern Slopes.

Sincerely,

*Ralph C. McDonald*

Ralph C. McDonald

# WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

## «CHAMBER OF COMMERCE»

Waterton Lakes National Park  
Alberta, Canada

June 25, 1973.

Hon. Bill Yurko,  
Minister of the Department  
of Environment,  
Government of the Province  
of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

Re: Provincial Land Recreation Hearings,  
Eastern Rocky Mountain Area.

We are forwarding our written brief rather than presenting it at the public hearings held at Lethbridge and also Crowsnest Pass recently. The voices of pressure groups are not always the best means of conveying public opinion. Our concern is with the provincial land surrounding Waterton Lakes National Park.

The first area of concern is the Pole Haven Community Grazing lease consisting of four sections of land which at one time were part of Waterton Lakes National Park. It was removed from the Park in 1947 and became a community grazing land. As this was set aside originally as part of a National Park it should be used by the people as a Park area complementing Waterton Park. It is serviced by an adequate road but parts of it have been fenced and "No Trespassing" signs erected by some of the ranchers in that district. We would strongly recommend that all of this land should be set aside immediately for use by the public as recreation land to complement Waterton Park.

The second area we are concerned with is the Provincial Forestry Reserve at the north side of Waterton Park. This land extends from the north boundary of the Park on Yarrow Creek to the Carbondale River and west to the B.C. boundary - a matter of 423 square miles along the east slope of the Rockies. This particular area was taken out of the Park in 1921. It complements our Park and is ideal for recreation use but at the same time should remain as a wilderness area and for day use only - people would not be able to have camping privileges but could have daily access to certain designated places under supervision.

"BORDER  
RESORT  
OF THE  
ROCKIES"

With proper management these two areas can be a definite asset to the people of Alberta and we suggest that the present land use is not in the best interests of everyone living in the province.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Casey".

G. Casey, President.

cc: Minister of Industry  
and Tourism.



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Carl B. Sullivan

Edmonton, Alberta,  
10521-85th Avenue,  
July 1st, 1973.

The Alberta Environment Conservation  
Authority  
1973 Summer Land Use Hearings

Dear Sirs:

May I offer suggestions on the use of public land now designated "Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve", situated to the immediate east of Jasper and Banff parkland and to the southern portion of the Alberta/B.C. boundary.

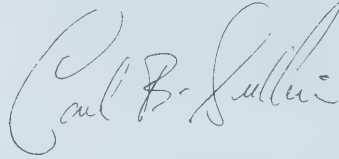
I believe proper use of this land would necessitate as little use by vehicles and horses as possible; namely, only the minimal patrolling by park authority people, as in other parklands. When one walks in the portions of this land close by towns such as Hinton, Cadomin, Rocky Mountain House, and Coleman, one is deeply impressed by the numbers of trails and ruts, campfires littered with debris, shells and non-packable, heavy litter found on such campsites.

One is also impressed with the discourtesy done to visitors from other Albertan and Canadian towns by local clubs and individuals who have a presently vested interest in the "game" and fish tourism which they enjoy themselves or supply as a business to "trophy" hunters.

This beautiful and God-given parkland is the "property" of local people and visitor alike from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. Its use allocation should only depend on careful and considerate utilization. If we are to develop a healthy, sane population, we will undoubtedly need a broadly educated, aware and adventurous exposure; today and in the future. Increasingly, clubs of Scouts, Guides, climbers,

hikers and nature seekers of any description will be bringing their sons and daughters up to love the grandeur and peace of these mountains that we are privileged to live beside. Surely we are human enough to realize what is priceless to our lives and to share it willingly with our fellow man.

I remain sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl B. Sullivan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Carl B. Sullivan

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Don Burner

3234 - 14 Street S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2T 3V9  
April 11, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Workmens Compensation Building  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sirs:

I was stirred by a recent article in the Calgary Herald; Tuesday, April 10th. It suggested a wilderness area be made of Mount Lougheed in the Canmore Corridor. This would be a 'buffer zone' to the Banff National Park. The area has some pretty but dangerous lakes and hiking trails could be made from the highway.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don Burner".

Don Burner

DB/lw

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Dr. G.F. Godkin

11 June, 1973.

The Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5.

Gentlemen:

A petition for and against the proposed recreational development in the Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch area was left on the counter of our Clinic for clients to sign if they chose, for the last three weeks.

A total of 3 signed for such development, and a total of 148 signed against it. Those who signed against it, and, for that matter nearly everyone we talked to, were very concerned that such a development should even be considered, whether in that area or anywhere along the Eastern Slopes, except along the three major corridors.

If this petition serves to indicate the ratio of feelings against the proposed development of the Eastern Slopes by the people of Central Alberta, then the people-orientated Government should certainly consider these feelings.

For those in favour of proposal (3 signatures)

Petition against the Recreation Development Proposal  
for the Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch land area (148 signatures)



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Ms. Cindy Hoover

June 5, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I am one of the Phys. Ed. students of Spruce View who recently went on a camping trip out West. I would like to say how much I enjoyed it, especially with the other students. We really got to know each other in a friendly manner, and also loved looking at the scenery for four days. I'm sure that if you would have gone with us, you would have enjoyed it very much. Except for the wood ticks, damp sleeping bags, and colder than cold water, that is! But then that's part of camping.

There has been some talk that the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies are going to be developed into parkland and possibly mining, etc. I'm sure you can imagine what mining would do to the beautiful scenery out there. Have you ever been out West? If you have, then you can realize why we are making such a fuss about developing the west. If you haven't been out West, you really should go. It's indescribable. Especially after climbing to the top of a small mountain; you get the feeling you are on the top of the world. It's a real neat feeling. Can't you imagine strip mining there, or looking down on top of a few scattered motels here and there, or looking down on a Shell station here and around the corner an Esso station? Wouldn't look so hot, would it? Especially after looking down on a winding river going up the valley as far as you can see and looking at trees for miles, and looking across the other side of the valley to see the distant mountains.

How would you like it to have someone come to your place and tell you that you have to move out because they want to put a coin-wash there? You wouldn't like it too much, would you? That's what is exactly happening or going to happen out West to the wildlife. People don't care about wildlife; their main concern is M\$NEY. That's all they care about.

You, as the Conservation Authority, can stop the development of the Eastern Slopes, I'm sure. So please try. You've got a lot of push behind you.

Yours truly,

Cindy Hoover.  
Spruce View Student.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Varley A. Muncaster

Ponoka, Alberta.

June 15, 1973

Dear Sirs:

As I will be unable to attend the Eastern Slopes hearings to be held in Red Deer, June 28 and 29, in person, I would like to express my feelings by letter.

While I am not against progress, I am against anything which will further upset the ecology, and add to the pollution of our mountain areas in Alberta.

The Clear Water and Rocky area has long been considered one of the best hunting and fishing areas in our province, but this I am sad to say has been changed with the building of the Big Horn Dam, and the over-grazing by cattle, especially in the Seven Mile Flats, Elk Creek and Clear Water Areas.

We are told there are almost 150 applications in for large recreation complexes, a number of which are to be in the Cline River, Nordegg Ram River, and Ya Ha Tinda areas. If these developments are allowed in these areas it will force our elk herds further back into sheep country, with the result that we will soon be unable to see any elk or sheep, plus the pollution and other damage to the environment caused by developments of this kind; and who will profit from this? Only a few people who already have more money than they know how to spend.

We all want more accommodations for tourists, but we would like to see them located in or near already existing towns, so that our small business men could reap a little benefit from the tourist dollar. Most of our small towns are already located on good highways, within a matter of minutes, or an hour's drive from the mountains.

In this day and age, the trend seems to be to produce all of our oil and gas, mine all of our minerals, cut down all of our timber,

in short to desecrate the land and leave nothing for the future generation. As I have already stated, I am not against progress, but surely it is time that we started to slow down the wheels of progress, so that our future generations may also have the pleasure of helping to destroy what is left of our beautiful province.

Yours truly,

*Forley A. Winchester*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: W.J. McDonald.

Box 1301  
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta  
T0M 1T0  
25 June 1973

Dr. W.R. Trost  
Chairman  
Environment Conservation Authority

I am opposed to the idea of a huge Provincial Park as proposed by Mr. Slim Davis with boundaries of the National Parks, Clearwater and North Saskatchewan Rivers.

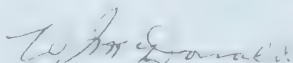
This area encompasses far too many people with property developed over many years, for the Government to step in and acquire all this private property with public funds. I cannot agree with the idea of these people all eventually being uprooted, for the sake of a Provincial Park.

Urbanites travelling into the foothills area on summer weekends seem to have little concern for the trail of trash they leave, and yet at home are ready to complain of pollution.

It's high time steps were taken by provincial authorities to halt all Indians from taking game animals at will. There should not be any special privileges for them. One set of rules should apply to all hunters of big game.

In closing, I reiterate that I am opposed to the idea of a large Provincial Park in our foothills area.

Yours truly,





LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by: Elmer L. Hogemann.

I believe that about 95% of the people in this province do not like to write a brief, and I am one of them. However, I am very concerned about the Eastern Slopes of our Rockies and really am alarmed at the proposals being made for the area.

In regard to the area generally west of the trunk road or the "S" zones as they are classed in the Provincial Hunting Guide, I strongly oppose any commercial development or use of this area. It has a rich natural wilderness effect that can be found in very few places in the world today. To allow commercial development would deny our children and future generations the enjoyment that many of us have found here in the past.

If resorts and other commercial developments were restricted to areas near towns and villages, they would be of value to the community, available to tourists and would create fewer environmental problems.

Although I realize that the tourist dollar plays a major role in our province, I believe we should try to maintain it as it is, and not increase it. There is a maximum level of tourism and if we go beyond this we will suffer environmental damage, or in other words "eat the goose that laid the golden egg".

In closing, I would like to say that I agree entirely with the Alberta Fish and Game brief and commend them for a very worthy effort. Also I believe a land use policy for the entire province is a very urgent need.

Yours truly,

*Elmer L. Hogemann*

Central Alberta farmer (3rd generation)

Box 995

Ponoka, Alberta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Robert T. Affleck and Sharon A. Affleck.

5008 Norquay Dr. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2K 2L3  
July 18, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Gentlemen:

Our family was unable to attend the hearings on "Land Use" on the "Eastern Slopes of the Rockies".

We do not feel that a very small group of people can control an area that was meant for all to use. If they wish to have a small area for themselves, let them but do not close a whole recreation area to the rest of the public, please.

My family and I use this area for camping, snowmobiling, fishing and some hiking. My husband also hunts big game, so you see, Sirs, that this area is of immeasurable pleasure to our family.

In closing, we feel this recreational land should be kept open to all types of vehicles, because of the numerous seismic trails.

We as campers have seen damage done by hikers, so don't go blaming campers or snowmobilers all the time. Some of us care very much; we even burn our garbage or bring it back to Calgary with us, others do not.

Sincerely,



c.c. Cal Lee, MLA  
Calgary McKnight

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a written letter to the Environment Conservation Authority  
from: Mr. Irvin Palmer.

Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

June 19, 1973.

Dear Sir:

I have a trail riding camp in the Hummingbird area for the  
past eleven years.

I was talking to Slim Davis, he thought I should submit a letter to the effect that I am still interested in trail riding, in which I am.

Thanking you for same.

*Yours Sincerely  
Irvin Palmer  
Sylvan Lake  
AB  
Box 476*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Tom Sugden

36 Cumberland Drive, N.W.,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
T2K 1T1.  
July 8th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I have not attended your meetings on Land Use but have strong feelings regarding the use.

I feel that this land should be available to be used by all people in our society. It seems there should not be one group (small in number at that) that could set rules to prohibit the use of motorized vehicles such as snowmobiles or motorbikes and horses and the like. If the Wilderness Association would like an area set aside it could be a small strip but not an area like that proposed, as very few would ever get to see the beauty of the area as they can by mobilized units.

I am also concerned that the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes developments will become highly commercialised and lose much of the intent they now express.

*Yours truly  
Tom Sugden*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: E. Pshyk

E. Pshyk,  
TWO HILLS, Alberta.  
18 July, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I have heard of the "Land Use" regarding the East Slopes of the Rockies, and seen it in the papers too. I just sort of scanned the item and then it really hit me.

You know, I just hit the roof when I realized that some outfit like some Wilderness Association THINK they can gain full control of hiking, hunting and fishing.

I don't really mean to knock this, 'cause off the cuff, I'm an outdoorsman. I like these things just mentioned, specially fishing. I have two boys (10-11) who just love it too. I also have two girls. I'm not really sure, but I think deep down they love the outdoors too. But now I'm getting "senty" and losing track of what I wanted to say.

Now why can't this be available, I mean all this land, to everyone?

I own a snowmobile and our family just love the sport. I sort of call it a sport because I guess that's what it really is. Seems that there's so much said about it nowadays. But I just wonder, I hear so much about these big outfits that want our Kananaskis and Spray Lakes areas.



It makes a person wonder, I mean, that's all we have left. Boy, what a kick in the groin, ha, Village Lake Louise. Well I don't really know, but mother nature must have some way of retaliation. But anyway, let's not go down the drain yet.

I'm still young, young family too, and we have got lots going for us regardless. I shouldn't say regardless because that's just a way of saying nothing. But I want you to believe that I don't like this "monkey business", neither does half the population of our Alberta, maybe more; I'm just guessing.

But, I'm a sort of average guy I guess and I just don't believe in this sort of development, you know, like this Wilderness Association bit and Lake Louise thing.

O.K?  
Thanks.

*Enai.*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from John D. Edwards.

P.O. Box 603  
Cochrane, Alberta  
June 15, 1973

The Honorable Bill Yurko,  
Minister of the Environment,  
Government of Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in connection with a project presently being undertaken by the Benchlands (Guy Gibson) Community Association. The site in question is a 17-acre parcel of land in the left bank of the Ghost River, approximately 40 miles north-west of Calgary, and 8 miles upstream from the junction of the Ghost and Bow Rivers. The land in question is owned by the government, but has been leased and held in common by the Benchlands community since 1971. Since that time, the area has been closed to the general public. In spite of this, the project to which I refer below is being paid for by public funds (a \$600.00 government grant).

A bulldozer began work yesterday on the site, and so far has drained a small pond just north of the river bank proper. The pond supported a variety of marsh plants, birds, frogs, spawning fish, and a beaver before it was drained. The bottom muck from the pond has been pushed onto a gravel pit which forms part of the main river bed.

The president of the Benchlands Community Association, Mr. Lloyd Greenway, has informed that the purpose of the project is to deepen the pond by approximately two feet and allow it to fill up again. The supposed final result is to be an artificial lagoon, with boats.

I contacted representatives of the various regulatory bodies concerned and asked them to inspect the site yesterday, which they did. The work has been temporarily halted.

My concerns are, briefly, as follows:

1. Damage to the ecosystem. The Ghost River at the site of the project is a young river. The vegetation along its banks is slow to re-establish itself after any disturbance or damage. The destruction already accomplished by the bulldozer includes the uprooting and breaking of trees and shrubs along the river bank, the crushing of smaller plant life, the drainage of a pond which supported a wide variety of aquatic flora and fauna, and the dumping of a large amount of pond muck on the gravel bars of the river bed.
2. A picnic area is being constructed on the site and will include two toilets. I would like to be assured that their drainage does not pollute the river, since they will be of necessity very close to the river, and on higher ground.
3. The children of the community believe that the lagoon is being constructed for them to swim in. Since the spring that feeds it is very small, and no fresh water from the river flows into it, the water will be stagnant and murky. I believe that it will be unsafe for swimming.
4. Plans for projects similar to this one have been defeated by the Benchlands Community Association for the past two years. The present decision was made at a recent meeting of the Association. Those members known to be opposed to the plan were not informed of the topic of the meeting, nor of its results. Our first indication was the presence of the bulldozer.
5. The Community Association closed the site of the project to the public two years ago, on the grounds that the public would abuse or harm the land. In other words, the purpose of denying access to this section of the river was to protect it. In view of the present destruction of a beautiful natural area, this seems very ironic. Again, I wish to point out that the project is being financed by public funds, although the area will continue to be closed to the public.

I note that the Environment Conservation Authority is holding a series of public meetings regarding land use in the Alberta mountains and foothills. We wish to present a brief on the above project to the

hearings in Calgary. In the meantime, we are appealing to you to issue a Stop Order on the project until the hearing has been held. It is a small project, but the Ghost is an important part of the Bow Valley watershed, and small projects have their effect.

I thank you very much for your attention to this matter. Although I will remain of the opinion that an artificial lagoon is out of place on the banks of a wilderness stream, I will not oppose the project if the various agencies concerned are satisfied with the manner in which it is being carried out, and with the anticipated final result.

Sincerely yours,

John D. Edwards

cc Mr. Jack Hourigan.  
Environment Conservation Authority  
cc Mr. Lloyd Greenway  
cc Environment Conservation Authority  
cc Mr. Ron Hilton  
Department of the Environment

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Roger G. Boys

R. Boys Trenching,  
2 Harvey Pl., S.W.,  
CALGARY 13, Alberta.  
4 June, 1973.

Edmonton Conservation Authority.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed wilderness area, Bragg Creek and south.

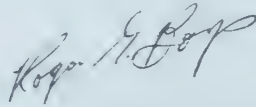
I am 42 years old; I have a wife and three kids, Linda age 20, Gordon 18 and Douglas 16. Linda is married and her husband shares our enthusiasm for recreation with snowmobiles and motorbikes. We are a happy family that plays together; we have been going to the areas (proposed wilderness) together since 1968.

We have always considered ourselves lucky to live in an area where such recreation is so close and so suitable to snowmobiles and motorbikes. We camp out winter and summer with a truck camper. We have not raised juvenile delinquents, nor has any of our group of families that are interested in these same recreations and play area.

We think the group of people that are proposing the wilderness are a very selfish bunch of hunters and hikers. They want an area all to themselves close to Calgary. Our group does not do any hunting or killing of animals; we travel the cut lines and the animals are out in the trees, so if we are going to do something for the animals ban the hunters, not the snowmobiler or the motorcycles or the jeeps.

We do not believe that being allowed one small area is going to satisfy anyone either. You could compare that to driving your car up and down the same road every Sunday, like back and forth on the same ten miles or so. We put a hundred miles or more on in a weekend.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roger M. Lopez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lopez".



1165

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Mrs. Sally Connelly

Box 144,  
Lundbreck, Alberta,  
November 28th, 1973.

East Slope Hearings,  
Environmental Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

Here is just one more plea for the Government to establish Wilderness Areas in Alberta. I feel they are an absolute necessity for people. There has been just too much land spoiled by carelessness, greed and (sometimes even!) necessity, and people must have a place or places left untarnished, wild and free.

Even if I never see or get to these areas myself, the very fact that I know they exist would be most comforting and would almost give me faith in the human race again!

I have lived, walked and ridden in the mountains of south Alberta all my life. Let's save some of it for the animals and people who feel very deeply about it before its too late, if it isn't already.

Thank you

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Arthur Bachmann and family

309 - 11 A Street N.W.,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
June 11, 1973

Dear Sir:

For the last fourteen years I have resided in Calgary. As often as possible my family and I take to the lovely forest reserve for camping, fishing and hiking. We enjoy the countryside as it is.

We hear and read a lot about developments in the forest reserve and crown land which are to take place in the future. We are not against development on the right place and with all the knowledge about the different aspects, for instance Canmore. Other existing developments and privately owned land where the public are not appreciated.

It would be very unfortunate if the government let developers into prime forest reserve and crown land, and also on top of it give to these developers thousands of acres of land, leased or otherwise. These groups could develop on just enough land for buildings, leaving the rest as public land, with the exception of a few wilderness areas, which would not need hundreds of square miles.

There are not so many places left outside the forest reserve where people can go freely. There is already too much control even on leased crown land from ranchers and farmers, not mentioning their private holdings. Also let us not forget Bill 205 which is presently before Parliament.

We and many others think the government should strongly embark on its own recreational programme, geared to the general public.

Yours truly,

*Arthur Bachmann  
and family*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: W. Regan

Wes Regan,  
912 - 104th Avenue, S.W.,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
T2W 0A5.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I have been following with interest the debates on the land use of the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies.

I have often been in the area for a day of relaxation in one form or another, depending on the time of year. It is very nice to have access to such beautiful country so near to the city. I believe in wilderness areas for those who want them, but a wilderness area should be an area that is away from the beaten path, not land that is easily accessible to the great majority.

Trusting in you for a fair decision.

*W. Regan*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Mr. & Mrs. J. Naf

Mr. & Mrs. J. Naf,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
11 July, 1973.

Dear Sir:

It has been brought to my attention that there is a group of people calling themselves the "Wilderness Association" who are trying to have large tracts of land just for hiking and hunting. The reason given is always the damage done by four-wheel drive, especially snow-mobiles.

I know there are always some who spoil it for many, but keeping out all vehicles from this area because of a few people is just like banning all hunting because one hunter is accidentally shot. I would very much like to hear the war cry if a movement like that was to be put into effect.

All my family enjoy this area very much and we couldn't if it was closed to all vehicles.

May I also suggest that a close look and a lot of consideration be given to any commercial developments proposed. That highway has done enough.

*Sincerely,  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Naf*

1423 Robson Cres, S.E.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Mr. & Mrs. H. Dixon

32 Braden Crescent, N.W.,

CALGARY 48, Alberta.

T2L 1N3.

16 July, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,

9912 - 107th Street,

EDMONTON, Alberta.

Gentlemen:

We were unable to attend the meetings on use of land in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies. We are concerned about the stories through the newspaper and our Snowmobile Club.

We are certainly upset that a small group called the Wilderness Association are trying to gain control of such a large piece of land for the use of limited recreation. Our family uses this land for hunting, fishing and snowmobiling as well as sight-seeing, and we feel that this land should stay accessible to various types of recreation, and accessible to all people.

We are also concerned about the developments proposed for the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes areas for commercial purposes, as was proposed for the Lake Louise area. We feel opposed to such type of development in these areas as well.

*Sincerely  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dixon*

Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes

Typed copy of a letter received from:

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Caspell

Mr. Ralph Caspell  
540 Aberdeen Road S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2H 1T1

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Gentlemen:

I was not able to attend the hearings on "Land Use" in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies but have been following the newspaper and radio stories with interest.

I have just come back from a two day holiday in these Eastern Slopes and am alarmed that a small user group called the Wilderness Association is trying to gain control of the most beautiful tract of land for the exclusive use of hikers, hunters and fisherman. Myself, family and friends have used these areas for years, both summer and winter for hiking, camping, riding, fishing and snowmobiling. We feel that it is very important that this land remain accessible for all types of recreation and not fall into the hands of a very small group for their exclusive use.

We are also alarmed at the large commercial development proposed in the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes area. We feel this will become another high priced deal such as the Village Lake Louise proposal and we would be very much against this type of development.

Sincerely,

*Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Caspell*



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Nick Helfrich

ROCKYFORD, Alberta.

12 July, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Gentlemen:

I was unable to attend the hearings on the use of the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies. I did follow some articles in the papers with interest and with some dismay.

I was particularly alarmed at a small group called the Wilderness Association. They seem to be trying to gain control of large parcels of prime recreation land in the foothills for use only of hikers, hunters and fishermen. I am a family man, as are many of my friends, and have used these areas both winter and summer for hiking, riding, camping, fishing and "snowmobiling." I feel this land should be available for all types of recreation, and not for a small group for their exclusive use.

I, along with my family and many friends, are opposed to large commercial enterprises to set up facilities in this area.

*Spencer  
Helfrich*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: D.J. Regnier

ALHAMBRA, Alberta.

May 22nd, 1973.

Dear Sirs:

Concerning the commercial development of the border of the Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch, I do not believe that this should not take place for the following reasons:

- (1) This would be spoiling the source of some of the water supply into the Red Deer River.
- (2) It would ruin the natural appearance of the land.
- (3) It would ruin part of the elk's summer grazing area.
- (4) There are already two or three recreation centres in Alberta along with at least three national parks. As we have these, I believe that they should be used to the fullest extent. The present parks in Alberta are large enough to serve Albertan's needs.
- (5) The overall costs would be enormous, including landscaping, road improvements, etc.

Sincerely,



D.J. Regnier.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Mrs. Fern Meyers

R.R. #1,  
MARKERVILLE, Alberta.  
TOM 1MO.  
May 29th, 1973.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter concerning the development of the Eastern Slopes. I am strictly against this action for the following reasons:

- (1) This ruins the grazing areas of the elk and the moose during the winter season.
- (2) The pure water supply of this area would be spoiled.
- (3) The natural appearance would be marred.
- (4) The money to build these things, like hotels, motels, complexes, highways, landscaping, service stations, etc. would be directly paid by Albertans.

I could go on and on, but at any rate, I hope I have reflected upon you what a bad idea it is to develop here.

*Sincerely,*  
*Fern Meyers.*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Mrs. George Inglis.

We believe it would be best to keep high mountain areas of the East Slope of the Rocky Mountains as much like it is as possible. This will help keep our water coming clean and that is priceless.

We would like to see the Clearwater Park become a reality.

We want our tourists to be well accommodated but we could do it by having more motels, hotels and service centres in our foothills areas, than just campgrounds, pack trails for foot or horses off the main corridors that are already built. There are four of these now, we think that is enough.

As for grazing of cattle and horses, keep them away from high mountain meadows such as the Ya-Ha-Tinda, leave those bits for our elk and moose and mountain sheep.

Strip mining and forest cutting should be carried on only where the land can be spread back and planted again to trees or grass. In order to carry these things out we would like to see an act passed giving the Alberta Government control over the Eastern Slope of the Rocky Mountains. This is particularly necessary as the Federal Act protecting Wilderness Areas has ended.

If this were passed we would have more time to evaluate other things that could be done to keep our precious heritage intact.

Please keep out commercial concentrations involving large groups of people.

As to mining, let them carry on with the least disruption possible and bring coal and oil to where it is needed by pipelines.

The Indian population is in favour of a park where animals can be protected to raise their young, then it will bring more hunting for them in other areas.

Our animals will disappear if they are left to the mercy of telescopic sites on guns.

Thank you and we know you will do the best you can.

*Mrs. George Inglis*

4114 - 51st St.  
Red Deer, Alberta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Ms. Gail J. Meyers

R.R. #1,  
Markerville, Alberta.  
TOM IMO  
June 14, 1973.

Gentlemen:

I am disturbed at the thought of developing the Eastern Slopes. The damage to the environment would be tremendous. It is such a large area proposed that I believe that we should stop and think before turning it into a commercial area.

So many animals depend upon this area as most of their habitat. The mountain sheep has a restricted area as it is with little vegetation for which to graze upon.

Besides the complete taking away of some of their habitat, this development is bound to affect the habitat next to the area. The water, at present, is pure enough for direct human consumption. After development, this would not be possible.

The huge area that could be lost to development is extended vastly when we think of the fact that the wildlife would not be able to live beside the area in harmony (e.g. the water and air would become polluted).

I could go on, but I hope this letter reveals more than the harm to the environment. S - t - o - p before it's too late!!

Yours sincerely,

*Gail J. Meyers*



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Mr. Carl Meyers

R.R. #1,  
Markerville, Alberta.  
TOM 1MO  
June 14, 1973.

Gentlemen:

I believe it unjustifiable to hop in and develop the Eastern Slopes, without first thinking of the harm resulting afterwards.

In making more resorts which are already available, and not used to the fullest extent, other people are robbed of their favorite way to camp. People go for places where noone else is, where they may enjoy their short holidays in peace, with no campers, tents, etc. stacked all around them. "Privacy" is becoming a more important factor for all people.

Wilderness areas are needed by many people in that many jobs are involved in places untouched and unspoiled, such as forest rangers, guides, biologists, and countless others.

Development would lead to more development, and so on, until it's all gone.

"Stop", before it's all gone, along with its wildlife and beauty!!!

Yours sincerely,

*Mr. Carl Meyers*

1178

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from:

D. R. Les Strange

1-2515-15 St. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2T 3Z6  
June 18, 1973

The Chairman  
Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 1G5

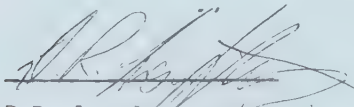
Dear Sir:

As a taxpayer, eligible voter, and a native born Albertan, I protest any and all commercial development in the Eastern Slopes of Alberta, unless the goods produced from any such development are for Canadian consumption only and that this region is left in its natural state after such use. I think it is about time Albertans and Canadians demand the safe-guarding of their resources for future use, turning to some other means for the balance of trade. I think it is much like the story of the rich man who had a lot of friends, but lost his wealth and now doesn't have any.

I would like to see some more road-side government campgrounds, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and possibly a service station-grocery store, possibly operated by a charity or the like.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Yours sincerely,



D.R. Les Strange  
245-3921

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from Gladys Dynes.

Dr. Trost  
Director, E.C.A.  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sir:

As an ordinary citizen who loves our wilderness, I wish to express support and appreciation of the splendid work of the Environmental Conservation Authority. It is alarming to realize the dangers of losing our wilderness, our most precious heritage, now, and for future generations.

A short range view for commercial gain could destroy this green, peaceful and restorative environment forever; destroy its wildlife, and leave a barren waste. Future citizens would be deprived of many types of recreation, and the now rare, soul-satisfying beauty of nature.

In the long view, even money-wise, our people and visitors alike, would be more profitable, than the quick buck now. Many of us have not realized the danger facing our environment so not been vocal in opposition.

May you be successful in your struggle to save these last outposts.

Sincerely yours,

*Gladys B. Dynes.*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES -  
Typed copy of a letter from Roger G. Boys

June 7, 1973

Editor Calgary Herald

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed new wilderness area.

I am 42 years old and have a wife, two sons and a daughter, aged 16, 18 and 20, and a son-in-law 23. Our weekends winter and summer are spent in these areas, snowmobiles in winter and motorcycles in summer.

We are a family that play together but I'll be darned if we would ever go picking flowers together, or hike either. We have not raised juvenile delinquents nor have the other families that share in these same recreations; there are six families in our group and we are all equipped with self-contained units, we bring our wastes and garbage home to be disposed.

We think that the group of people that are proposing the new wilderness area are a very selfish bunch of hunters and hikers, they want an area close to Calgary all to themselves.

Our group does no hunting or killing of animals, we travel the cut lines and the animals are out in the trees.

So if we are going to do something for the animals let's ban the hunters not the snowmobilers, motorcycles, or jeeps.

No one will be satisfied if allotted special areas either, you could compare that to driving your car up and down the same street every weekend.

Calgary has some of the best recreational areas close to home, let's think about the people for a change, there are many thousands of square miles where the animals are free to wander.

Yours Truly

Roger G. Boys  
#2 Harvey Place S.W.  
Calgary T2W 3A5

Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes -

Typed copy of a letter from W.A. Swanson.

1483 Lake Michigan Cres. S.E.,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
Phone: 271-2680

Environment Conservation Authority

Re: Land Use Hearings  
East Slope Rocky Mountains

Gentlemen:

On Thursday June 14th I attended a meeting of the Kananaskis Action Committee at the Western Canada High School. This meeting was chaired by a well-mannered young man named Dan Lousier. In the period I attended I learned that representatives from various Canoe clubs, Fish & Game clubs, Snowmobile Groups, 4-wheel drive clubs, Cross Country Ski Enthusiasts, and employees of Dept. of Highways were there. I noted a lack of attendance from the Forestry Dept. My attendance at this meeting was purely for the purpose of gaining an understanding of such expressions as Multi-use recreation, and Environment Impact Assessment.

I have been involved in Resource Industries since I graduated from college. Most of my life has been spent in the Forest Products Field. With some twenty-five years experience under my hatband, I believe I am qualified to express some observations that I have noted along the way.

Today, I am concerned about strip mining, and merchantable forest cover. I object to surface timber being pushed off to one side and allowed to rot in the frantic rush to mine. I object to vast amounts of timber being allotted to foreign companies for harvesting and exporting out of Canada, (i.e. Crown Zellerbach at Grande Prairie). I object to crown land being set aside to foreign controlled corporations for recreation development. I object to the lack of leases available for residents of Alberta to enjoy recreational homesites in Rocky Mountain areas. I object to the stand our country has taken in regards to crown land. We are the second largest country in the world and our people cannot buy a homesite

at a fair and reasonable price.

I propose: that under a multi-use recreational program that all groups have specific areas in the parks system for the enjoyment of their particular "Thing".

I propose that strip miners be policed to harvest all merchantable timber before performing stripping operations.

I propose that no more timber stands be allotted to large foreign crops. That the merchantable forest cover be harvested on a sustained yield basis, preferably through selective thinning.

I propose that lease lots be made available for family type holiday housing, and more campsite generated for weekend family pleasure. Less emphasis for the multi-million dollars projects envisioned from the foreign corporations presently involved in resource exploitation. I propose that the public have an inventory of crown land available for multi-use recreational as well as resource development potential for local people. This would cover the lease lot potential and the thinning of merchantable forest cover.

The above covers my observations and opinions.

Sincerely,  
  
 H.A. Swanson

Mr. G.R. McAthey  
3603 Logan Crescent S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta

June 20th, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority

Dear Sirs:

Since I have never made a submission to a commission before, I will not be disappointed if this letter is not entered in the records. However, I hope it will at least suffice as an opinion of part of the "Silent Majority" we hear so much about but hear from so seldom.

I am thirty-seven years old, have a B.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters degree in Business Administration, and I am employed as an area manager for a large western company. I have a wife and one six year old son who join me in enjoying the primitive outdoors that can only be found in the Forestry Reserve. We enjoy some hiking (strolling to be more exact) and some fishing (dangling to be more exact). And, to add to this picture of complete family bliss - horror of horrors, I own a trail bike. My wife detests it as much or more than the purists who would turn large portions of the Reserves into a hiker's paradise; however, she condones my bike riding because, as is the case with most casual riders, it only takes up a small portion of my time (approximately three to four hours per weekend) when we are in the Reserve. Also, I have the sense to appreciate other people's feelings and I ride the bike far enough away from the campground that it is not a nuisance to anyone else - including hikers.

Although I have only been riding for approximately one year, I have yet to see a display of destructive or annoying riding by anyone, with one exception: one weekend we made the mistake of camping at Meadow Creek which as you know is close to the city and therefore crowded almost every weekend. Among the campers were a couple of families with sons approximately ten to twelve years old who were allowed to ride machines far too big for them. As a consequence they could not handle the bikes in the bush so they spent the whole weekend riding back and forth through the campground. This was clearly a case of bad manners on the part of both the parents and the children but I wonder if the hikers and other wilderness purists can say with a straight face that any of their numbers have never annoyed other campers by loud, early morning rising or late talking around the campfire.



Environment Conservation Authority  
June 20th, 1973  
Page two

We found our own cure to the problem was simply to move another twenty miles up the Forestry Road and for the rest of the summer we would have felt crowded if the campground was more than half-full (which it never was). There were miles and miles of bush roads, trails, etc. in the area but in all the times we camped there, we never saw one hiker. There were a number of bike riders but they did all their riding where they should - on the trail.

The pleasure of our camping trips was doubly enhanced by the fact the drive was made at a leisurely thirty miles per hour on a well maintained gravel road that was quite adequate for the purpose. Unfortunately, I cannot imagine any commercial development being satisfied with receiving their customers at the rate of thirty miles per hour so I am afraid this is one of the fine features that will rapidly disappear if the Reserves are not kept in their present state.

In summary I would like to state that my family and I are quite prepared to share the Reserves with anyone but we do not want to do it on the basis of being herded into one area or excluded from another area because of our activities or to compete with paying customers of a commercial development that will be continually applying pressure to exclude people like ourselves for the sake of increasing their profit or their customer's pleasure. In other words gentlemen, my family's vote and mine is to operate the Forestry Reserve much as it is now: open to all and exploited by none, letting good forestry management and good manners preserve it for future generations as well as our own.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



G.R. McAthey  
P. Eng.

301 - 1730 12 Street S.W.  
 Calgary, Alberta  
 T2T 3M9  
 July 24, 1973

The Environment Conservation Authority  
 Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sirs:

Without espousing any of the countless arguments regarding the eastern slopes that have been presented at the Public Hearings, I would like to leave you with two quotations for your perusal in the hope that they will help to temper your decisions---some of which may be philosophical in nature.

Firstly, a brief passage by Thoreau

"We need the tonic of wildness,  
 to wade sometimes in marshes where  
 the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk,  
 and hear the booming of the snipe;  
 to smell the whispering sedge where  
 only some wilder and more solitary fowl  
 builds her nest, and the mink crawls  
 with its belly close to the ground.  
 At the same time that we are earnest to  
 explore and learn all things, we require that  
 all things be mysterious and unexplorable,  
 that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed  
 and unfathomed by us because unfathomable.  
 We can never have enough of nature.  
 We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible  
 vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-  
 coast with its wrecks, the wilderness  
 with its living and its decaying trees, the  
 thundercloud, and the rain which lasts  
 three weeks and produces freshets. We  
 need to witness our own limits transgressed,  
 and some life pasturing freely  
where we never wander."

Secondly, a quotation from an unknown author-

"An Indian is only six feet tall. If he leaves the  
 Great Valley at daybreak-and follows the sun-he can  
 reach the Sea by nightfall. With a steady stride and  
 good luck.

The white man covers the distance in less than an  
 hour. He races across the earth almost as swiftly as

the sun moves across the sky. And without effort. He sits there, enclosed in a hunk of steel, rushing through space.

You white men think you are gods. To travel from the Great Valley to the Sea in less than an hour. But not for free.

You must lay a hard mixture of rock and sand over the brown earth. You must criss cross this land with huge, smooth paths. You must destroy the trees. You must remove the wild animals. You must make the world regular, even, predictable.

Soon you will not be able to breathe without choking, soon you will not be able to open your eyes without crying, soon you will not be able to live at all.

It is not an easy journey to walk from the Great Valley to the Sea. My people would not make such a journey without good reason. We would finish the day tired and hungry. But when we travelled that distance we knew the earth we walked across. We knew the leaves of the live oak, the chatter of the squirrel, the tap tap tap of the woodpecker.

White man, what do you know?"

Please register this as my brief, and include it in your study. Thankyou.

Yours truly,

James R. Good

11136 - 86 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta

July 30, 1973

Dr. Walter Trost, Chairman  
Environment Conservation Authority  
Workman's Compensation Building  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Dr. Trost:

Having attended several of the East Slope hearings and not having presented a brief, I feel I must make some comments at this time. The following are the recommendations I present for your consideration.

- 1) No further non-renewable resource extraction should be permitted until this is necessary to serve the needs of the Canadian people.
- 2) No further Crown land should be disposed of to private users, even by lease.
- 3) No Crown land in the east slopes should be disposed of by lease or sale to private groups even those whose facilities are open to the public.
- 4) The priorities that should be in effect in the east slopes are;
  - (1) watershed
  - (2) recreation
  - (3) renewable resources
  - (4) non-renewable resources.
- 5) A number of provincial parks should be established, not necessarily of the traditional kind. I would suggest that the Provincial Parks Division is the agency best suited to administer and plan for recreation in the east slopes and elsewhere in Alberta.

- 6) Any developments given approval should be built in existing townsites only, and certainly not outside the major east-west corridors.
- 7) No developments should be approved which would draw people to the east slopes to take part in any activity which is not directly related to the natural recreational resources of the area.
- 8) The Province of Alberta should undertake to meet all the recreational needs of Albertans by providing the facilities necessary. In the east slopes this would consist of campgrounds and trails, as well as the facilities necessary to house children, older people, school groups, private organizations and tourists. In this recommendation it is recognized that tourism is not a profitable enterprise for Alberta and that the provision of facilities for tourists should not take precedence over provision of these facilities for Albertans. It is also recognized that the disposition, in any form, of Crown lands to any organizations (eg. Alberta Youth Hostels Association) is not a justifiable concept. The Alberta Youth Hostels Association, the most obvious group to be granted any land, is a private organization with nominally open membership. However, it is clear that just as any organization it is used primarily by a specific group of society, in this case usually young, middle class and well educated. Only a small fraction of the Alberta Youth Hostels Association membership actually use the hostels (and I speak as a member), the majority using their membership for equipment discounts or access to European hostels. It would be much preferable that the government provide accommodation including overnight cabins, dormitories, even motel and hotel facilities. Of course the pressing need is for the former two styles of accommodation and for campsites. Of the criticism that government sponsored hostels have failed, I would answer that in many cases they did not fail and that where they did the cause was an existing urban - social problem which appears to be passing, lack of adequate supervision which can be overcome, and perhaps a poor initial concept which can also be overcome, A.Y.H.A. hostels as an example. I would reiterate that groups such as the A.Y.H.A. should not be given leases to public land as this would constitute a precedent that

would not be desirable to follow with other groups.  
The Province of Alberta should be responsible for  
providing all accommodation and facilities in the  
area.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to express my  
views.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jim Wright". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jim Wright

c.c. The Honourable William Yurko  
Minister of the Environment

1190

1930 - 28 Ave. S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

May 30, 1973.

Edmonton Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

It is my understanding that the Alberta Wilderness Association have submitted certain briefs which propose the restriction of certain prime areas to a select few individuals.

I say "individuals" due to the concept of the proposal, i.e. abolishment of motor vehicles, horses, etc., in the Bow Forest Area and other reserves. If my figures are correct, this generous group of perpetrators only want the immediate prime land close to Calgary and District, so they may wander aimlessly, on foot, with back-packs on some glorious 500 square miles of God's country.

As an Albertan, born and raised in Calgary, outdoor sportsman in camping, hiking, fishing and snowmobiling, I strongly protest any such proposal.

In a democratic society, my rights are being threatened, as are my wife's and two children. Where do we go to enjoy the outdoor recreation?

Our investment in outdoor recreation is also contribution to Alberta's economy when you consider the price of one van truck, one boat and motor, one camper trailer, three snowmobiles and all fishing accessories. The gas, food and lodging, both winter and summer, not to mention the numerous licences required, amount to quite an investment annually.

If our Government persists in creating "closed areas" then people like myself have the only alternative--take our leisure time and money to British Columbia or elsewhere. I pity the poor tourists, but then, Alberta obviously prefers the spendthrifts--known as the Alberta Wilderness Association--any Albertans in the group.

Yours truly,



Paul R. Randell.



Department of Biological Sciences,  
University of Lethbridge,  
Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 3M4,  
June 6, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 St.  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1G5.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the forthcoming hearings on Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes, we wish to make the following points:

1. That not all seemingly appropriate proposals should be given immediate approval, but that only a select few be allowed to proceed immediately. Prior to and after completion of these initial developments, studies should be made which would include environmental impact data and public patronization figures. With this and other cost benefit analysis information, the government would then have a firmer basis than present on which to accept or reject other proposals.
2. Developments should be as concentrated as possible in specified areas, especially along highway corridors (Crowsnest, Canmore-Banff, Nordegg-Saskatchewan Crossing, Hinton-Jasper, etc.) so that the "inner" roads of the forestry areas may be relatively free from commercial development. The authors are very concerned that the forestry trunk roads not end up as the Okanagan resort areas of British Columbia where commercial developments are strung along roads for miles, detracting from the general natural beauty of the country.
3. That strong support be given to the establishment of wilderness recreation areas such as proposed by the Alberta Wilderness Association, in which access is forbidden by motorized vehicles. With so many commercial developments proposed, public usage will undoubtedly increase, and with this the influx of all kinds of motorized vehicles. Special areas must be reserved where peace and quiet can prevail.
4. More than 85% of Alberta's population and a considerable portion of Saskatchewan's population depend almost completely on the supply of water from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains (Consultant's Report on the Impact on the Environment of Surface Mining in Alberta, 1971). The difficulty of maintaining, let alone improving, the watershed capabilities of this area has been amply illustrated by the record of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board. Therefore, the effects of any development on its watershed capabilities must be thoroughly examined before approval. This examination must not only include the effects of the development per se, but also the effects resulting from the interaction of different developments. We must not allow developments

that may impair the watershed capabilities of the area and that will require greater expenditures of time and resources to repair than their apparent benefits would justify.

5. More support should be given to wildlife management measures to maintain existing habitats, especially those areas essential to the survival of such species as mountain sheep and elk, and to reclaim areas where the natural environment is or will be disrupted. Arrangements for provision of resources and facilities to carry out these measures must be included in all proposals for developments that may seriously affect wildlife populations of the area.

Sincerely,

*Teresa Delane*

(Miss) Teresa M. Delane

*Wm. H. Sharp*

Mr. William H. Sharp

7303 Keewatin Street, S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta,  
T2V 2M6

April 6, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
T5K 1G5

Attention: Mr. Walter R. Trost, Chairman.

Gentlemen:

This brief is presented on behalf of my son and I, and a couple of other fishing friends, who have enjoyed many summers of recreational fishing and camping in the forest reserves of the Eastern Slopes, mainly along the Kananaskis to Coleman Forestry Road. You will receive many briefs covering many items -- this one will deal solely with the use we have made of this particular area, and will reflect our hopes and aspirations for land use in the area.

We understand that it will not be necessary to present the briefs in person but that your authority will give consideration in any case to all presentations. We do hope to attend the hearings in Calgary June 18th to 20th, and in order to lighten your very heavy work load we do not request time at the hearings to make an oral presentation.

When originally the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board was established some 25 years ago, it was held that the main consideration for setting up this authority was the preservation of the watershed, and that all other uses, while desirable, were to be held secondary. While it is accepted that the Province of Alberta should now take over the sole administration of the forest reserves, it is sincerely hoped that the preservation of the watershed (particularly as it applies to the preservation of the purity of the water) will remain a prime function of the Government of Alberta in administering the forest reserves and Eastern Slopes areas.

We enjoy fishing in the area because it is one of the last strongholds of the Cutthroat Trout - one of our finest native fishes. Further, with access cut off in many cases to rivers and streams in the built up areas and privately owned lands in the southern part of the province, it is accessible because it is owned by the people through its government.

Camping in the area is a delight still, although recent inroads by the coal and lumbering industries have caused not only a high degree of pollution of streams but have had a deleterious effect on the wilderness aspect of the forests. From Vicary Creek south into the town of Coleman we find it is extremely hazardous travelling by automobile due to the narrowness of the road and the dust raised by the large trucks hauling coal and lumber into Coleman. After a couple of harrowing experiences, we no longer drive from the forest reserve directly into Coleman but have been forced to take the longer route east through the gap to Lundbreck and then west to the town of Coleman on the highway. To be frank, we are just plain scared to drive the forestry road into Coleman, when these trucks are on the road.

We enjoy the near wilderness state of the forest reserves and the camp grounds provided by the government and feel that this is as close to nature as any development could be without despoiling the area. We do not feel that fishing and camping are inconsistent with good conservation practice in the area; rather it is the one way it can be enjoyed by us city dwellers as opposed to private tourist developments whose installations we feel would be a shame.

We have always supported the action of closing the forest reserves by the authorities during periods of high fire risk, and this happens often enough to make the fire threat quite clear. This raises the point of the position private developers would face during such periods. Certainly during periods of high fire risk, operations would have to be closed and this is hardly conducive to turning a profit, which private developers would have to do in order to carry on. We would hope that such bans would apply to private developments just as they would to the general public.

If private developments for the tourist trade are considered necessary, then we feel they should be located in areas of present buildup; e.g., the towns of Coleman in the south and Canmore in the north and possibly places like Lundbreck, Longview and other areas already built up on the eastern fringes of the forests. This should occasion no hardship because the forests are easily accessible from any of these points by motor vehicle in an hour or less and would allow enjoyment of the forests just as easily as by developing tourist facilities within the forests themselves.

If development of coal and other mineral reserves were considered necessary, we would suggest that they be deferred for many years until such time as the present supplies at existing sites, where good roads and railways already exist, have been depleted. The exploitation of coal reserves must necessarily mean building of paved roads and/or railway lines lest the present forestry roads be cluttered with huge trucks almost bumper to bumper and scaring away the public users. By playing down coal exploitation we will save the wilderness aspect for a few more generations and we feel we owe this to the generations which will follow ours.

We would also point out that the forests have been administered in recent years on a concept of multiple use, and while this has a rather democratic connotation, it is open to abuse. We suggest that "multiple use" has often been misconstrued by authorities to mean "total use" and this is bad. We urge you to not adopt a "total use" concept in making your recommendations.

Man, particularly those of us who have become "cityfied" deeply need on occasion to see an uncluttered sunset in a natural environment, smell the wild flowers, and be able to commune with nature, just as badly as we need food to eat and fuel to drive our machines, lest we suffer the same ultimate fate as the lemming. This may sound like a "cliche" but it is written in all earnestness. Let us leave something our children will thank us for rather than hate us for.

Before preparing your report, we would urge you, if you have not already done so, to take a trip into the forested areas and

see for yourself conditions as they are now and envision what they will be like if overexploited.

In closing, we would like to relate to you an event which occurred during the summer of 1970, while we were camping at the camp grounds on the West Branch of the Oldman River, in the Crowsnest Forest. Upon arrival we struck up a conversation with a retired couple from Chicago who were laying on cots along the riverbank. They told us they were enroute to Jasper Park and that somewhere along the way someone had recommended that they by-pass the highway to Calgary and instead take a trip over the forestry road from Coleman to Canmore and then go on to Jasper rather than miss this beautiful drive. They had arrived two days prior to us and were already behind schedule. They told us that they were going to stay a further two or three days and chop the lost time from their visit to Jasper because in all of their travels they had never seen such pure, clean water as was in the Oldman at that point. They said that after living so long in Chicago with all of its water pollution problems their present location was like heaven -- and they hated to leave. They did stay an additional three days and on leaving told us that in all of their lives they had never disliked so much leaving a place as they did this campsite. We urge you to think about this.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Shaddock".

NORMAN SHADDOCK

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
EDMONTON 7, CANADA

May 14th, 1973

Dr. W. R. Trost, Chairman,  
Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Dr. Trost:      Re: Land use and resource development in the  
Eastern slopes - Canmore Hearing

Since I will not be able to attend the Canmore Hearing, I am taking the liberty of contributing the following brief written submission.

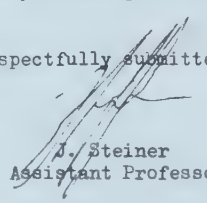
I have read summaries of most of the submissions to the February 28th Bow River Basin inquiry, but in them have seen little about the future place of the average Alberta individual who likes the mountains and may wish to own a moderate summer cabin in the Canmore Corridor.

No doubt it will be difficult to balance existing industrial activities with tourist facilities and recreational activity, but these problems are not insurmountable if some over-all plan emerges from your inquiry.

My wife and I were lucky enough to have acquired an inexpensive lot in Harvie Heights some eighteen years ago, and we have enjoyed the recreational facilities there ever since.

I would strongly urge the Environmental Conservation Authority to lay aside substantial tracts of land which could be developed as privately owned (or leased) family recreational facilities by Albertans of moderate means. I would recommend that no such lots or subdivisions be available to developers since the building of summer facilities can be a very personal and rewarding family affair. The reserved parcels of land which would be available for development over the next 30 to 40 years should be spread out, as far as possible, all along the entire Corridor from the Morley Indian Reserve to the Banff Gate. I think smaller subdivisions, separated by several miles, are preferable to substantial enlargement of presently existing subdivisions meant for private, family recreational use.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. Steiner  
Assistant Professor.

#104 - 9935 - 83 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta

July 30, 1973

Dr. Walter Trost, Chairman  
Environment Conservation Authority  
Workman's Compensation Building  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Dr. Trost:

For the past several weeks I have been following with interest the proceedings of the public hearings on Land Use and Resource Development in the East Slopes. I was most fortunate in being able to attend those meetings held in Lethbridge, Calgary, Canmore and Edmonton.

Having reviewed the materials made available by the Authority and by those groups making presentations at the hearings, there is one matter I should like to bring to your attention at this time. I fully expect, that of those proposals submitted for your consideration, the request of the Alberta Youth Hostels Association will be favourably received. While I believe this to be a worthwhile organization and wholly support its objectives, we must be cognizant of the problems associated with allowing any group exclusive use of an area, irrespective of the universality of the group or the infinitesimal size of the area requested.

During the course of the hearings, several other groups requested that leases be issued to them covering sites they had selected and used for several years past. Boy scouts, individual public schools, researchers and a mountaineering school are examples of those groups requiring leasehold land for their activities. The primary reason for requesting a lease seems to be the need to erect at least one permanent building to house supplies, equipment and cooking facilities.

If a lease is granted to one group, then others expect the same consideration. If leases are granted to all, the same situation could arise as has already evolved regarding recreational shoreland in Alberta. As you are well aware, there is a scarcity of standing water bodies within this province. Unfortunately, at this moment in time, much of the



land bounding these water bodies is inaccessible to the public because it is owned or leased by private individuals or groups. The report of the Peace River Regional Planning Commission entitled, 'Outdoor Recreation and Tourism in the Peace River Region' states:

"It is becoming recognized in Alberta generally that alienations of lakeshores and the development of cottages and other structures on lake margins is detrimental to the lake resource itself, and imposes a hardship on members of the public seeking access to the lakeshore. The Environmental Protection Study Group of the Public Advisory Committee to the Environment Conservation Authority has recommended that a moratorium be declared on lakeshore development in Alberta ....."

It is conceivable that many of the prime 'wildland' areas of the east slopes will become likewise inaccessible to the public unless action is taken now to prevent just such an occurrence.

As an alternative to the Youth Hostel proposal, I request that consideration be given to the construction, by the provincial government, of a series of permanent shelters at selected locations throughout the entire east slope region. Contracts could be let for the maintenance and supervision of these facilities if the government did not wish some branch of the civil service to assume this responsibility. Two types of designations could be assigned to these shelters: one category could be for group use on a reservation basis; the other, for the individual traveller on a first come - first served basis. A system of differential fees could be instituted in order that the Albertan first and the Canadian second would be given priority in the use of these facilities. It is intended these shelters would be used year-round.

If the above suggestion is not feasible, then I would support the Youth Hostel proposal if, and only if, they would adopt the following two policies. Firstly, a preferential system of accommodating Albertans first, Canadians second and all others third would be implemented. It was pointed out at the Edmonton hearings that during the summer months the overwhelming majority of hostel users within the National Parks were non-Canadians. Secondly, all groups, irrespective of affiliation, would be allowed to use the hostels for the same fee assessed hostel members. If the standard non-member charge was levied (one dollar per night) some groups could possibly be precluded from utilizing hostel accommodation. I personally feel the foregoing conditional acceptance of the Youth Hostel proposal is an undesirable solution to the problem of accommodating all those seeking the unique recreational experiences our east slopes afford.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues, Mr. Dowling and

Mr. Kinisky, for bringing the question of land use within the east slope before the public for their comment. Wise land use will become increasingly dependent upon the understanding and goodwill of the public. This understanding is predicated upon an informed, involved citizenry. Public hearings are but one vehicle to be used in the attainment of this very desirable end.

Yours sincerely,

*Dorothy J. Louie-Byne*

Dorothy J. Louie-Byne, (Ms.)

c.c. The Honourable William Yurko  
Minister of the Environment

Devon, Alberta  
June 20, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107th Street,  
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Sirs:

The Devon Fish and Game Association respectfully submit the following ideas for your consideration with regard to the development of Alberta's Eastern slopes:

1. Clean water

Since this is the primary source of our pure water, we recommend the following:

- (a) Timbering and reforestation be strictly government controlled.
- (b) Non-renewable resource depletion by foreign ownership be stopped, and these resources developed by Albertan-owned companies.

2. Wilderness Recreation Area

- (a) This is the last accessible wilderness area left in Alberta, and should be available to everyone - not just those who can afford it through commercial developments.
- (b) Commercial developments should only be allowed right beside towns already established, in order to preserve the wilderness concept.

3. A clear-cut long-term policy must be established by the Government of Alberta in accordance with the wishes of the majority of Albertans, and then laws enacted and enforced.

Thank you for this opportunity of presenting our views.

Yours very truly,

*Sam Lachman*

Sam Lachman - President  
Devon Fish and Game Assoc.

cc: File

# TOWN OF CARSTAIRS

Office of the  
Municipal Secretary

NE 337-3043

CARSTAIRS, ALBERTA

Carstairs, Alberta  
June, 11, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5.

Dear Sirs:

As a Council representing the Town of Carstairs, we have been following the developments and proposed developments of Alberta's eastern slopes with much interest and concern. Although it is not our intention to make personal representation at any of the public hearings dealing with the subject, we would like to make our position clearly understood through this correspondence.

(a) It is our contention that the most precious resource which can be afforded by these slopes is fresh water. Any development, which may be destructive of this supply, cannot be tolerated.

(b) We believe that a general development of the total area is inevitable and natural. The provincial government must, however, keep a close check on such development, and accept ultimate responsibility for an overall plan. This point is specifically mentioned because of what, from our point of view, seems to be poor planning and hasty development of strip mining operations in some areas.

(c) It is our feeling that the grasslands of the eastern slopes are part of the natural resources which rightly should be harvested through careful planning and management. We do not agree that all livestock should necessarily be removed from these grazing areas.

(d) Because of our concern for the range future of some wildlife species, we agree in principle with the concept of designated wilderness areas. We believe, however, that new wilderness areas should only be created in currently inaccessible locations, and that very large tracts of land should not be included in such designations.

(e) Finally, we feel that the most important long range development of the eastern slopes must be "people orientated". We are concerned that in all planning for development, large areas must be preserved in natural beauty for the recreation of our people. We realize that, in many cases, this will undoubtedly preclude the development of many known reserves such as coal.

We thank you for your consideration, and remain;

Respectfully yours,

*per: H.B. Meyer, Sec. Treas.*  
The Mayor and Councillors  
Town of Carstairs.

TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF CALGARY

FOR THE  
CITY OF CALGARY AND  
THE CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

26th Floor, Calgary Place One  
330 - 5th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 0L4

June 20, 1973

Dr. W. R. Trost, Chairman  
Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Dr. Trost:

This letter is being submitted in response to a request by the Environment Conservation Authority of Alberta for submissions respecting land use and resource development in the Eastern Slope region of Alberta. The T.D.A.C. has a primary interest in the Bow River Valley and contiguous areas since any development in this region could have a bearing on the City of Calgary, both environmentally and economically.

The T.D.A.C. wishes to state at the outset that whatever developments do occur in this area, utmost consideration should first be given to the impact that these developments will have on the regional ecology. However, the T.D.A.C. would also like to emphasize that where environmental considerations are concerned emotionalism and monetary gain should not be allowed to prevail over common sense.

The comments to follow relate to transportation developments in and adjacent to the Bow River Valley extending from the eastern boundary of Banff National Park to Calgary's western city limits.

First, the T.D.A.C. is recommending that the portion of the Trans-Canada Highway lying between the eastern park gates and the Banff township be up-graded to a four-lane standard. While it is recognized that the national parks lie outside the immediate scope of the present hearings, it should be pointed out that the full potential of the four-lane highway lying east of the park gates will not be fully realized until the bottlenecks within the park are removed.

Secondly, and related to the first point, is the present inadequacy of existing facilities at the eastern entrance to Banff National Park. The T.D.A.C. is recommending that additional entry bays be constructed to reduce traffic congestion during peak demand periods, particularly in the summer months. Alternatively, the same objective might be achieved by more efficient operation of the existing bays.

Page 2  
June 20, 1973

Thirdly, the T.D.A.C. recommends that the Kananaskis highway be paved from Canmore to as far south as the location of present and potential recreation developments. The availability of a paved roadway could affect the patronage and therefore, the ultimate economic viability of recreation schemes in the Kananaskis area.

Fourthly, the T.D.A.C. is recommending that airstrips be developed in the Canmore and Kananaskis areas to serve recreation schemes as well as to facilitate emergency landings. These airstrips should not materialize in a haphazard manner but should be planned and developed in a way which is compatible with the local ecology yet adequately meet the needs of the flying public.

While the Banff airstrip should be maintained at its present level of development, federal government policy would appear to limit further airstrip development within the park boundaries.

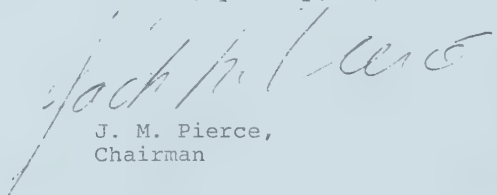
Consideration should be given to a possible helicopter tourist service from the Calgary downtown heliport to the Banff townsite. This would give a unique and different view of the mountain environment to visitors and residents alike.

Finally, the T.D.A.C. is recommending the implementation of a high frequency rail passenger service between Calgary and Banff to transport skiers during the winter months. The initiation of a winter dayliner service would reduce litter and congestion on the Trans-Canada Highway as well as making the ski areas more readily accessible to enthusiasts not owning automobiles. Furthermore, it would provide a reliable alternative to the automobile during periods of inclement weather.

In conclusion, the T.D.A.C. would like to lend its support to any development which will enhance the enjoyment and economic benefit of the Eastern Slopes region while adequately protecting wilderness areas.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Pierce", is written over the typed name and title.

J. M. Pierce,  
Chairman



# *Palisade Snowmobile Distributors Ltd.*

314 MERIDIAN RD. N.E., CALGARY, ALBERTA T2A-2N6

GERALD DILLABOUGH

June 1st, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:


We understand that your authority will commence public hearings soon with respect to land use and resource development on the eastern slopes of the rockies.

May we lend our support to the multi-recreational use concept for the subject areas. The snowmobile recreation activity is just in its infancy, and a more wholesome and harmless activity is hard to be found. It would be regretfull if Crown Land use were limited in such a way as to exclude the use of these machines during the many long winter months through which Canadians are subjected.

If our further views on this subject would be benneficial to the promotion of the snowmobiling concept of which we are proponents, we would be more than pleased to be of further assistance if required.

Yours very truly,

PALISADE SNOWMOBILE DISTRIBUTORS LTD.,



G. Dillabough,  
President.

GD/aad

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Floyd Stromstedt

R.R. #1,  
MILLARVILLE, Alberta,  
TOL 1K0.  
August 20th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

ATTENTION: Dr. Walter Trost

Dear Dr. Trost:

Now that the Land Use Hearings are history, I wish to submit a bit of a follow-up.

First, let me say that the Hearings were held 25 years too late. This, of course, is not your fault. However, it does seem redundant that Land Use Hearings should be held on land that is already "used". I feel that land use planning of this type should have begun in 1947 when the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board was established. In theory, such was the case. In practice, the Board was forced to "rubber-stamp" approval of the various and sundry development schemes for the East Slopes. I feel qualified to make that statement since I worked for the Board for a time.

Never the less, the public has had its day. The variety of interests, and corresponding conflicts were to be expected. This, to me, presents the most critical challenge to our Provincial Government and its agencies. The East Slopes must be zoned for use. The conflicting interests must be kept apart. The regulations covering such zoning

must have teeth, enforceable teeth. And, this must be done before some long-suffering horseman lynches a motorcyclist for spooking his horses (or similar incident). These conflicts are real, and critical.

"Multiple use" is a theory, and should remain a theory only. It is not possible for 2 dogs to eat from the same dish without conflict of some sort. The hearings indicated that the East Slopes are stuck with many different "dogs", so it behooves the powers-that-be to arrange for a different dish for each.

My major suggestion in establishing land use zoning categories is that watershed values receive primary consideration. Lip-service is not good enough. Any activity detrimental to the watershed must not be allowed, unless slope gradients, vegetation cover, etc. are such that damage will not result.

To this end, I suggest that the Department of Lands and Forests be given primary authority over land-use decisions and zoning enforcement. This department has been historically the "weak sister" in the Alberta Government. At decision time, budget time, any time, Lands and Forests must have a bigger slice of pie. With less emphasis on Highways, Tourism, Labor, Education, Welfare, etc. we could survive quite nicely. Without top priority for Land and Forests we will soon have nothing. The reason that Alberta has always been a good place to live is the quality of its lands and forests. Over-use dictates that this be no longer taken for granted.

Sincerely yours,



Floyd Stromstedt

cc: Hon. E.P. Lougheed  
 Hon. A. Warrack  
 Alberta Fish and Game Ass'n  
 Alberta Wilderness Ass'n.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Mrs. Susan J. Murray

6016 Thorburn Drive N.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
June 18th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Re: Alberta Land Use Hearings  
Public Hearings on Land Use and Resource Development  
on the Eastern Slopes of Alberta

Gentlemen:

As an individual, a native Albertan, and a concerned citizen,  
I welcome the opportunity to have my say regarding land use.

Many of my recommendations are based on my experience of living  
in southwestern Ontario for 4 1/2 years, where there are no undeveloped  
areas such as the one presently under discussion. The southwestern  
peninsula of Ontario is completely developed by industry and commerce.  
There is no wildlife there, what should be scenic views along the lake  
sides are spoiled by commercial developments and industry, camping  
facilities are inadequate, especially when the campgrounds are overrun  
with Michigan tourists, Lake Erie is unfit for swimming and fishing,  
Huron may be the same before too long, the shores are crowded with summer  
cottages too, most of which are eyesores and many of which are owned by  
non-Canadians.

It would be most unfortunate for Alberta to suffer the same fate  
as this region of Ontario, particularly when we have their example and  
errors to learn from. Therefore, I make the following recommendations:


- 1) That commercial development, i.e. motels, service stations,  
sports facilities such as ski resorts, pools, be allowed

only on a very limited basis and only in areas now served by major highways.

- 2) Establishment of more camping and picnic facilities along existing roadways, and further
  - a) stiffer penalties for damaging the natural environment and for littering.
  - b) non-residents be charged a slightly higher fee for camping than residents. (It has been our experience that non-residents are careless about the natural area and litter as they often do not expect to return).
- 3) A ban of all motorized vehicles, summer and winter, other than along proper roadways.
- 4) Wildlife be protected. It is possible the hunting ban could be lifted occasionally when research indicated an imbalance of the wildlife population.
- 5) Development of hiking trails.
  - a) Some trails could involve several days travel.
  - b) Other trails, suitable for a family on a one day outing. Perhaps these could be planned to cover a variety of vegetation, rock structure, etc., and descriptive material along the way would increase one's knowledge and appreciation of the natural environment.
- 6) Steps be taken to discourage property owners in the area from subdividing their property for either commercial or residential development.
- 7) Some allowance should be made for mining and lumbering, for economic reasons. Perhaps tight controls could be set to insure the land is returned to its natural state when the mining or lumbering project is complete.

I hope my recommendations are of some interest and value.

Yours truly,

  
Mrs. Susan J. Murray

LAND USE AND RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Colin J. Kure

P.O. Box 2102,  
R.R. #1,  
Innisfail, Alberta.  
June 11, 1973.

Dr. E.E. Ballantyne,  
Chairman,  
Natural Resources Co-ordinating Council,  
Government of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to air my thoughts and wishes regarding the future disposition of the natural mountain areas in Alberta.

The one thing that I amongst others appreciate about our west country is that there have not been any of the numerous changes and so-called improvements which are initiated in the name of progress. Other than the cattle grazing in the forest reserves, the country which we camp, hunt and fish in has been relatively unspoiled. This of course is what everyone appreciates about the west country. People can go out and get back to what it's all about and maybe rough it a little.

The area known as the East Slopes is so very small in relation to the part of the country where Albertans live and work.

It would be an unequivocal and irrevocable mistake to allow commercial development in our alpine forest reserves.

Any type of development in these areas would deny this and future generations of the right to get into a mountain wilderness area where one is not confronted by signs, commercialism and the overwhelming crowds. Once developers got a foothold in this area they would not stop (legislation or not) until the whole mountain area was overrun and spoiled for all time.

Any commercial tourist development should take place on the perimeters of the forest reserves or in the green areas. As mountain areas are so small, development on the perimeter would quite adequately take care of those people who require high levels of service, accommodation and entertainment.

Resource development, when absolutely necessary, should take place in an organized and planned manner so that as little country as possible is disturbed.

I hope that in the money orientated society which we live in, good common sense will prevail. The relative worthlessness of purchased goods and services in relation to the esthetic value of the unspoiled outdoors is becoming more apparent everyday.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Kane".

LAND USE AND RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Helen M. Harris

R.R. #1,  
Penhold, Alberta.  
June 22, 1973.

Red Deer Hearings,  
Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I being a naturalist and conservationist in the Red Deer area feel deeply concerned about the land use of the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains in Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins.

It would be highly detrimental to the ecology of the whole area to build more highways or secondary roads. We already have good gravel roads to give access to our forests for protection purposes. Any more roads would simply mean more use and abuse of this area. It would result in more all-terrain vehicles destroying the fragile vegetation, more oil-spilling boats, more people and more mess.

Yours truly,

*Helen M. Harris*

Helen M. Harris,  
Concerned Individual



LAND USE AND RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Cindy Hallgren

3509 - 51 Ave.,  
Red Deer, Alberta.

Hon. W. Yurko,  
Dept. of the Environment,  
Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5

Dear Sir:

The issue of the Eastern Slopes has come to our knowledge through our Social 10 class at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer, Alberta.

We feel very strongly about having our land kept natural; free of industrialization and commercialism.

Our proposals are as follows:

1. No resort villages
2. No paved roads
3. Many garbage disposal units
4. No motorized vehicles allowed within 100 feet of the road, for example: snowmobiles, motorcycles, trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles.
5. No strip mining
6. No cattle grazing
7. Regulated hunting and fishing
8. No motorboats over 5 h.p. allowed on any waterways
9. Lumbering so as not to upset the ecological balance of the area
10. Canoeing allowed on waterways
11. Only very few camping facilities such as water pumps
12. Filling the waterways with fish

13. Oil pumps permitted only if they do not harm the environment.
14. Have strict ruling on all laws so that the area is not damaged.

This is the way in which we want our natural environment kept.

Thank you very much.

*Sincerely,  
Mr. Handrick's  
Sincerely,  
Sincerely,*

Included with this submission were the names of fellow students at L.T.C.H.S. that agree with the above proposals.

(259 signatures)

LAND USE AND RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Mrs. Camilla Kovach

Blairmore, Alberta,  
June 19th, 1973.

Department of Highways,  
Highways Building,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

REROUTING NO. 3 HIGHWAY - Blairmore

I recently received a copy of the proposed routing of the new No. 3 Highway to the north of Blairmore. As President of the Ladies' Section of the Blairmore Golf Club I was most concerned to find that this proposal would destroy our golf course. The Blairmore course is the only one in the Crowsnest Pass and forms an important part of the established recreation facilities in the area. To develop an alternative site as a golf course would require at least five years during which time residents of the area would have to travel to Waterton or Fernie to play and all the voluntary time, money and labour spent in building up the present club would have gone for nothing.

We have some engineer members and I enclose a plan of the proposed route of the Highway showing a simple alternative which would save this important recreation facility. A 12,000 ft. radius curve in the route from the back of the hospital to the proposed intersection for entry to the town would carry the road clear of the main part of the golf course and through the sterile area of refuse tips. This simple modification to the planned route would still eliminate the first two holes from the course but would save the nucleus on which a rearranged

golf course could be developed relatively easily.

I suggest that this simple modification is quite feasible and would neither result in an increase in the cost of the Highway nor introduce inferior driving conditions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cam Kovach". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Cam" and last name "Kovach" clearly distinguishable.

Mrs. Camilla Kovach

CK

Att.

cc: Dr. Trost, Environmental Cons. Authority

cc: C. Drain, M.L.A.

1217

LAND USE AND RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Ms. Elizabeth H. Cooper

Bonnyville, Alberta,  
June 25, 1973.

Alberta Dept. of the Environment,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
Dear Sirs:

In regard to the hearing that you are conducting this summer on the future of the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, may I urge that the entire area be restricted to recreational use.

In this overdeveloped world full of pollution and concrete jungles, there is a most urgent need for places where man can go to relax and enjoy the wonders of nature that our province is so abundantly endowed with.

Sincerely yours,

*Elizabeth H Cooper*

#301, 1730 - 12 Street S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta. T2T 3M9

June 26, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sirs:

I wish to commend the Environment Conservation Authority on the manner in which the East Slope Hearings were conducted in Calgary. I think it was an excellent idea to have three copies of each brief distributed to the panel to peruse, while the speaker was giving his presentation. The questioning by Dr. Trost, Mr. Dowling, and Mr. Kinisky was most helpful in clarifying certain points made in some of the briefs to those of us in the audience.

As I did not give an oral presentation during the Hearings, I wish this to be registered as a written brief, and would appreciate confirmation of the same.

The future of the Foothills Region is of great concern to me, primarily because the initial purpose of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve was to maintain a high quality watershed for those areas to the East. However, with the increasing recreational demand on the Foothills, I feel we should respond to the citizens of Alberta, and develop the potential this high quality environment has to offer. Lest we lose sight of this potential, we must proceed slowly, and with caution. This area is equally as beautiful as the National Parks, to which certain portions of the foothills are adjacent, and as we are all aware of the increasing pressures on these parks, certainly well-planned development of the foothills region would help to alleviate such pressures. While I strongly believe that the National parks have one specific purpose (preservation for future generations - which means that recreation must be in harmony with the surrounding environment), I must admit, with regret, that if we designate the Foothills Region as a Recreation Area and attempt to cater to all interests (which is not the purpose of a National Park), appropriate zoning must be assigned, so that the various types of recreation, and the resulting need for accommodation, can be met. It is absolutely necessary to have a "buffer zone" adjacent to all National Parks, so that the animals (unaware of this artificial boundary) are able to wander freely. In order to further protect the wildlife and natural environment, I support fully the twelve proposed areas for wilderness, by the Alberta Wilderness Association. These areas have been carefully studied by qualified ecologists, and have been proposed for wilderness zones due to the unique flora and fauna. But, in addition to a buffer zone and wilderness areas, there is a great need for provincial parks. It is indeed astonishing that the provincial government has not come forward with a proposal for a chain of parks within the Foothills Region!! (To my understanding, there are now nine - most of these highly commercialized, i.e., allow the use of trail bikes, snowmobiles, motor boats, etc.) I realize that we cannot exclude those persons who desire a more "urbanized" type of recreation from the Foothills Region, for it has been repeatedly advocated that such motorized vehicles be banished from the National Parks. And if so, where are they to go? In the last few years, there has been but one suggestion - outside the Park boundaries!! But having these noise-and-air-polluting vehicles roaring up

to this artificial boundary is no solution. They are still going to disturb the environment, and the people who are in these natural areas for the sole purpose of enjoying them. Therefore, in order to best cater to the interests of all Albertans, we need an abundance of provincial parks, varying from primitive at the most western parts of the Eastern Slopes, to developed at the eastern extremities. This would enable all types of people to pursue their recreational interests, but not at the expense of loss of enjoyment for others. Having recreational areas zoned in provincial parks would keep them under strict control, whereas in the past, the government has sometimes been lax in the Forest Reserve.

The resulting need for accommodation would best be handled in provincial parks as well, i.e., campsites would be kept clean, be they primitive or developed. For those persons who wish to take their "homes" away with them, they would best be accommodated at the eastern extremities, as these are usually the same people who pursue the noisier types of recreation. For the less hardy, I must regretfully admit that the Canmore Corridor is going to be the target for motel accommodation. However, this must be confined to the valley floor! Proposals such as Mount Rundle Village and Banff Recreational Park would be intolerable!! There is no need for accommodation to be built on the mountain slopes and border on the National Park boundaries!! While I do not object to the Assiniboia proposal in its entirety, it is not necessary for the developer to occupy such a vast area. This would not only be harmful to the immediate surroundings, but eventually it would have an impact on Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park, as well as Banff Park. There is no mention made of access to Assiniboia - however, I should hope the existing road, with minor improvement, will be sufficient!! If there must be additional accommodation, other than the Canmore Corridor, I suggest we utilize those "stop-off" points already in existence, rather than creating new ones (such as the Red Deer Ranger Station, the Kananaskis-Highwood Junction, etc.). The government must realize that there can only be finite development of our Eastern Slopes, meaning that there cannot be accommodation for all; or that a quota system will have to be established, first to Albertans, then Canadians, then foreigners. Ultimately, it will come to this, hard as it will be for any of us to accept!! We now have the choice to preserve what valuable natural resources we have - let us not destroy them!

In order to retain public control, the Province of Alberta must take the initiative to develop a multitude of parks, before even considering private proposals. That the government did not come forth with any proposals before the Public Hearings was indeed a mistake! Once they do, it will perhaps be somewhat easier to accept some private enterprises on short-term leases!

Regarding the up-grading of roads within the Foothills Region, I must object strongly to the type of highway planned, and partially completed, in the Kananaskis Forest Reserve. This will only serve as a precedent for the other Forestry Roads - and certainly is not the type of road suitable to a "Recreation Area"!!! (A 50 mile per hour speed limit on a road designed for 70 miles per hour will have serious effects!)

To summarize, you must realize that I am against any further development in the Eastern Slopes, but it is inevitable that some will be necessary. "People" are going to present a "problem" more and more in the future. We can only cater to people to

1220

a certain point (what that is, I guess, none of us know!), but if we are going to preserve our non-renewable resources, perhaps we will all have to suffer!!!

Please take this into consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Good".

(Mrs.) Jeanne Good

P.S. I might mention that I cited a few proposals in particular, but what I have said, I mean to apply to all those proposed for the Eastern Slopes; unfortunately, it would be impossible to go into such detail.





1221

# **camp chamisall**

ON THE SHORES OF WAIPAROUS RIVER

4507 Richmond Road S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
June 19, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1G5

Gentlemen:

Subject: Public Hearings on Land Use  
and Resource Development in the  
Eastern Slopes

---

Camp Chamisall is a non profit organization operated by the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church of Southern Alberta. Our camp location is on a 12 acre leased site in the Bow River Forest Reserve, and more specifically on the Waiparous River, 3 miles west of the Forestry Trunk Road. Our lease is registered in the name of The Western Canadian District of the Christian & Missionary Alliance.

The board of Camp Chamisall, which is comprised of individuals from Red Deer, Mirror, Wimborne, Hanna, Drumheller, Strathmore, Lethbridge and Calgary, has noted with great interest, the Environment Conservation Authorities public hearing on land use and resource development in the Eastern Slopes.

Our organization strongly believes that much is to be gained by introducing young and old alike to the rugged beauty of our wilderness areas. Much value is gained by these individuals throughout the major life areas of spirit, soul and body. Through our year-round recreational and educational program, we are endeavouring to enrich the lives of all who come in contact with Camp Chamisall by bringing them face to face with some of Alberta's most magnificent country.

Throughout the summer months of July and August, some 325 young people between 9 and 18 years of age will be able to enjoy this beautiful area and will also learn how to protect and maintain it for the generations of people yet to come. About 2/3 of these are affiliated in one way or another with the Christian & Missionary Alliance organization but over 100 young people are from outside of this group, so you will see that our sphere of activity is fairly wide ranging. Our entire staff is volunteer. In addition to our summer activities, portions of our facility are completely winterized and are available for group use throughout the winter months.

This past winter saw some eight groups using our quarters for weekend activities. These included a group of 50 Jewish young people from the Young Judeah organization and an outdoor living group from Rosedale Elementary School in Calgary. We anticipate that subsequent years will see many more groups utilizing the area and facilities.

*sponsored by The Christian and Missionary Alliance*



Since our building program began in 1969, we have put together a complex of buildings costing some \$50,000.00, which will indicate our great interest in the Waipar River area. We intend to further develop this facility in the years ahead.

We are fully aware of the dilemma facing your authority with regard to use of these wilderness areas. It is unthinkable that they should be closed off to the public entirely, but it is also unthinkable that they become another urban sprawl. Somewhere between the two extremes lies the logical point of balance. These vast tracts of land must be available for the people of Alberta but they must also be maintained in a natural way without the vast pollution problems which occur so very easily.

As a Camp Board, we want you to know that we will give every co-operation possible to your authority as well as to other groups who may ultimately be involved in matters concerning land use and management.

Our only concerns at this time are:

- (a) If and when additional leases are granted in a given area, that sufficient buffer space be allotted between leases to minimize pollution problems of noise, congestion (people and traffic ) and sewage. May we suggest at least 1 mile between such recreational leases as an absolute minimum.
- (b) Fire becomes a real problem as the number of people increases. Camp fires are a prime source of forest fires. May we suggest that camp fires in Forest Reserves be allowed by permit only except in properly supervised campsites.

Again, may we assure you of our interest and co-operation in this matter. Because we understand that Bow River Forest officials are relatively pleased with our layout and retention of rusticity in our buildings without sacrificing the amenities necessary to good health and economical year-round operation, we would be pleased to make available plans of our complete facility complete with pictures should you so desire. These could possibly form the basis for minimum future camp building standards on Forestry lands. We look forward to receiving a summary of your findings when this is available.

Sincerely yours,



H. Heerema,  
Chairman of the Board  
Camp Chamisall.

c/c Dep't of Culture Youth &  
Recreation - Edmonton  
Dep't of Lands & Forests - Edmonton  
Dep't of Highways - Edmonton  
Bow River Forest,  
5425 - 85th St. N.W.  
Calgary.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from:

Mrs. J. Daryl Sturrock  
Mrs. Roberta S. Esplin  
Mrs. Doris Dinon

606 6 Ave. S.,  
Lethbridge, Alberta,  
T1J 0Z3.

June 26, 1973.

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton 14, Alberta.

Sirs:

"THOU SHALT NOT KILL" is just as applicable today as it was when it was first commanded many thousands of years ago.

What has happened to our highly educated and technological society of today that industry is such that it must kill in order to survive and make a profit? Rivers are diverted, dams are built, all of which means the death of life in some form, whether animal or man, bird or fish, or vegetation.

Are the voters of this land so stupid that we put in power in government, people to whom this disaster is unrecognized? Have they no understanding of what is meant by the preservation of life? Are they unaware that water is the one ingredient that sustains life?

Life means vegetation; it means animals and birds and fish; and without this man cannot survive because he is not that smart to know how to substitute these requisites for the real thing.

What is the matter with the governmental leaders that they will allow any industry in any park in this land? The term "Voice of the People" - there are plenty who are against strip mining, diversion of rivers and other destructive practices in the name of "progress". \*But that little voice is more silent than the "still small voice that only God can hear" because those who do the listening don't want to hear.

The Dollar Bill in the name of Progress, is the only voice they want to hear; all else is naught.

We, in the West, are voicing vehemently the strip mining on the eastern slopes of the Rockies in southern Alberta. Are we hollering loud enough to make an impression for conservation of environmental assets? If not, what must we do to prevent any such environmental destruction in the name of progress, or any other name?

Wherever civilization has marched, destruction and death of environment have resulted. "Civilization" means Man - and Man still does not obey the commandment "Thou shalt not kill". Can progress not advance without killing of life? Has this technological age not come up with methods of progress which do not destroy life?

This is my voice against environmental impairment detrimental to any kind of life.

Sincerely,

*J. Saryl Sturrock (Mrs).*

*Roberta S. Esplin*

*Mrs. Lois Dixon*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
D. Voelker

June 14th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 St.,  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
T5K 1G5.

Re: Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes  
North Saskatchewan and Red Deer River Basins.

Gentlemen:

It is my wish that the above area be retained in as natural a state of wilderness as possible, not only for the present but for future generations to come. With less and less access to privately owned land it is imperative that this public land be available for the recreational use by our citizenry.

What I am mostly opposed to are commercial and private interests who wish to build profit-making establishments such as resorts, motels, campgrounds, hotels, cabins, housing projects, golf courses and swimming pools etc. in these forest reserves.

Cattle grazing especially leases should be banned from the forest reserves. Not only does cattle grazing ruin the pasture for wildlife it pollutes the streams and creates so many flies that camping, picnicking and fishing are nearly unbearable. Besides the foregoing there is very little revenue to the province from it compared to what is received from fishing and hunting licenses.

Strip mining is another industry that should be banned from the above area.

The building of superhighways is unnecessary and highly undesirable in these areas.

Yours very truly,

  
D. Voelker

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Wayne E. Abrahamson.

Box 863,  
Innisfail, Alberta  
24 May 1973

The Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

Re: Forest Reserve on the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains

Since I am on shift work and am not certain of the date when a meeting on the above mentioned subject is held in Red Deer, I may not be able to attend personally. However, I would be very pleased if my views were represented at this meeting. I've also written to the Minister of Lands and Forests outlining my views.

These forest reserves should be left as natural as possible in order to maintain a proper watershed, at the same time creating enjoyment for hunters, fishermen, campers, nature lovers, and as a preserve for wildlife. The following text outlines my own recommendations:

1. Under no circumstances should land in the forest reserve be leased to cattlemen. Cattlemen post lands, ban hunting and fishing.
2. After present ranching leases have terminated, they should not be renewed.
3. Whenever possible existing leases should be purchased back by the government.
4. Cattlemen with existing leases not to be given any special concessions such as equivalent to owners' rights.
5. The number of cattle in the forest reserve should be drastically curtailed if not banned altogether. If the cattle cannot be banned altogether then the grazing fees should be raised considerably. Having low grazing fees brings in very little revenue and gives a certain

select few cattlemen an unfair advantage over the other cattlemen who used their own facilities to feed their cattle.

6. Lumbering and oil industry should be allowed to operate in the forest reserve providing that they do a proper job of restoring the affected areas by re-seeding with grass, plant life and trees. The type of trees and plant life should be used as to provide the maximum food value to wildlife and at the same time acting as an effective watershed cover.

7. Mining industry to be carefully restricted to such areas as would do the least environmental damage. All damaged areas to be re-stored with grass, plant life and trees. Acidity resulting from strip mining to be contained and neutralized.

8. No other private enterprises such as resorts, motels, lodges or cabins to be allowed in the forest reserve. This type of commercialization is most detrimental to the environment.

Even under the present rate of attrition caused by the various industries, forest fires and insects, the forests in the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains will be largely depleted and the watersheds ruined in the next fifty years. But by adding new industries, private enterprises, more roads, etc. the attrition rate would become a consumption rate and the forests with their watershed could very easily be destroyed within the next two decades.

Yours very truly,

*Wayne E. Abrahamson*



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copies of letters  
from Wayne E. Abrahamson

Box 863  
Innisfail, Alberta  
TOM 1A0  
June 26, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 St.  
Edmonton, Alberta

Re: Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes in Regards  
to the Smoky River Basin .

Gentlemen:

Due to employment commitments I am unable to be present at the Grande Cache and Grande Prairie hearings, but having studied the excellent Peace River Regional Planning Commission Report therefore wish to have my brief voiced.

My personal view would be to favor the "Wilderness Model", but being a practical person, knowing that "bread and butter" issues are the most important, especially for the local population, therefore the "Middle Road Model" would perhaps be the most acceptable course. But this is really up to the area citizens including the natives to decide.

However, I wish to state my reasons for the "Wilderness Model" which are very important. First of all, why the big rush to develop and exploit our resources? Certainly some development and exploitation is necessary; people need the resources in ever-increasing amounts, but why not let it develop naturally as the need arises. There will be people, we hope, living in Alberta a century from now, who will appreciate the wilderness and its resources probably a great deal more than we do. If we are not concerned with such future generations, what about our sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters; they should have a say in the matter also. We are only temporary custodians of this land; therefore



we should leave it in an acceptable condition for the coming generation.

Let's not forget the native population who need this area for hunting, fishing, trapping, guiding and camping etc.; any large-scale development is going to do them a great deal of harm.

Coal may not seem very important to Albertans at the present time, except for exporting, but it is the energy fuel of the future, when hydro-carbon fuels become exhausted. Coal in the future will be used for operating power plants, trains, heating, making steel, jet fuel, automobile fuel, road asphalt and numerous other by-products. Such plans as using atomic and solar energy for heating and power on a universal scale are nothing more than pipe dreams. Coal is the only answer to the energy crisis. So let's not waste this important resource by giving it away to foreign interests, even if we have lots of it. Does it make sense to you that we give coal to the Japanese for ten cents royalty per ton after building a hundred million dollar railroad to haul it out on?

Now let us take a good look at the forest industry. Certainly we could develop this industry immensely; in fact to a point where the entire forests in the area would be ravaged and their products sold to foreign countries. We are shocked at the cost of lumber and housing now, but what would it cost then? Why not keep the forests and their products for our domestic markets? By harvesting the trees sanely, re-planting the cut areas the same as they do in the Scandinavian countries, we would be ensured both lumber and green forests for all time.

There are many aspects to the present forestry industry which are not too desirable; take for instance the burning of waste trees, branches and sawdust which could be converted to a great many useful products such as wood alcohol, a pollution-free fuel for aircraft, auto, campstoves and heaters. New type building materials, pulp and processed heating materials, etc. Then there is the notorious pollution caused by the pulpmills; no doubt with new technology this problem can be eliminated within the decade or so. But in the meantime such mills should not be permitted in this area.

Another development that should never be allowed in the forest reserves are commercial tourist and recreational projects. Once such projects are sanctioned they would soon engulf the entire area and the public would have to pay for everything. Likewise private cabins should not be permitted around the lakes and other choice sites since that would prevent the public from enjoying these areas.

I am all for allowing such recreational use of the land as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, scouting and cross-country skiing, etc. But all campgrounds and recreational facilities should be government operated. This is not to say that the inhabitants of Cache Creek couldn't have whatever facilities they wish within the confines of the town limits.

There isn't much that can or should be done to stop the oil, gas exploration and industry from operating in this area due to the energy crisis. However, it does seem foolish to export these products when we may be needing them for our own use very shortly. What we really should be doing is to develop the Athabasca tar sands for export purposes and use the cheaper drilled products for domestic use. Exploration cut lines are not all evil as some people make them out to be; when seeded with grass they provide pasture for big game and new growth provides habitat for other wildlife. They also supply access to firefighters, hunters and hikers. All cut lines should be required to run in relation to map grid lines; they should be blocked off to prevent vehicular traffic and lines on hills shored to prevent erosion.

No more homesteads should be allowed in this area since it is not suitable for farming. Homesteaders would only do a great deal of damage to the environment without any benefit to themselves.

Yours very truly



Wayne E. Abrahamson

Box 863  
Innisfail, Alberta  
TOM 1A0  
June 27, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 St.  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Re: Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes;  
Athabasca - Yellowhead Area.

Gentlemen:

Unfortunately I am unable to attend these hearings, but would appreciate to have my views aired.

In my opinion this area should be left in as natural state as possible, the coal and lumber industry to be allowed to operate for domestic consumption only. The petroleum industry to be permitted to operate full swing due to the energy crisis. No commercial tourist industry, other than what already exists be permitted.

Every consideration should be given to the needs of the native people or Indians. They should be encouraged to take part in these hearings.

Cattle grazing in the forest reserve should not be permitted since it destroys the winter pasture of the big game animals.

No more private cabins should be permitted, especially around the lakes, since this prevents the public from enjoying these areas. There just isn't room for everyone to have a cabin in the wilderness. We don't want to make a city out of it.

All campgrounds and facilities should be government operated and natives hired to look after them. Out-of-province tourists should not be encouraged; there isn't room for everybody or else it ceases to be a wilderness.

I am all for allowing such recreational use as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, scouting, etc. But I am against the unlimited use of snowmobiles and trail bikes.

1232

For further details please read my Smoky River Basin brief,  
most of which applies to this area also.

Yours, very truly



Wayne E. Abrahamson

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Deborah Stoyka.

#221 - 4895-55B St.  
Ladner, B.C.  
Age: 21

Dear Dr. Trost:

While on my travels from Edmonton to Vancouver, I heard about a project which the Government of Canada wishes to start. I am talking about the strip mining in the Banff Park area. I was also told that a board of appeals was set up where the public could voice their opinions, through the month of July. I hope this letter will be read even though it is only my opinion. I know it may not help much, as I heard the companies which want to do the strip mining have brochures of facts why it should be done.

I travelled through the Banff area two years ago and was overwhelmed by the forests and mountains. I grew up in the prairies so this was quite a change for me. I also like to hike into the woods and camp. But this would be impossible for me and many others to do if forest areas one to two miles from the highways are to be stripped down. I don't feel it is fair to the animals of the area either. We are always taking away from them but never giving anything back. I don't think that this beautiful land was put there to be destroyed, but I fear the public will not speak up until it is too late. Thank you for taking time to read this letter even if it be of little value.

Yours truly,

*Deborah Stoyka*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: P. Smerek

740 - 12th Street, B.N.,  
LETHBRIDGE, Alberta.  
June 7th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONOTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

Any land policy must benefit the people. Locking up resources in a wilderness state and thus preventing job possibilities does not benefit the citizens. However, resource development that ruins the environment may benefit a few, but results in a deteriorated life style for the majority and especially for future generations.

The answer - resource development that results in little if any environmental damage, that is, Management Strategy C. Human nature being what it is, the balance must definitely be weighted toward environmental protection. A group of ecology experts must have veto power, even in the case of "little" developments (eg. gravel pits).

Yours truly,

*Philip Smerek.*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Gene Scully

1115 - 13th Street, S.,  
LETHBRIDGE, Alberta.  
June 7th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to be able to convey to you my feelings on land use and development on the eastern slopes of our Rocky Mountains. I make these statements as a fisherman and hunter who, I believe, recognizes the benefits and the desirability of having an area such as our eastern slopes for a recreational area second to none on this earth. Thousands of fishermen and hunters use this area exclusively for their recreation, and, on their behalf, I am protesting further commercial developments in this area.

It was due to the foresight of the early planners that this land was kept closed to settlement and the Forest Act as used to ensure clean water. This was the prime reason for preserving the reserves. Is there any reasonable explanation as to why we should abandon these aims now?

It has been suggested that strip mining will take place in the Alpine areas of the Old Man River drainage. It has also been suggested that Fish and Wildlife personnel will be making a preliminary survey to evaluate the effects of such a venture. We should be well aware that strip mining in Alpine areas will cause more damage than benefit, and it is impossible to reclaim an Alpine area to its original state.

National Parks allow people to see the most beautiful mountain scenery from the automobile and from public transport. I believe that there should be areas of the mountains which have restricted ease of access and that private recreational projects be restricted to the

East-West corridors through the mountains and to areas outside the forest reserves. I also suggest that the Forestry Trunk Road remain as was originally intended -- to give better access to forestry personnel in protecting the reserve from the disastrous fires that plagued the area before the road was built.

For these reasons I believe that we still need an act by the legislature to protect the people's interest in the eastern slopes of our Rocky Mountains. I also believe that new developments in this area should be stopped until such an act has been passed. Failure to do so would only make a mockery of these hearings and would be of no service to the people of Alberta.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gene Sculley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Gene Sculley".



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: D.J. Grattan

D & D Small Engines Ltd.,  
7815 Flint Road S.E.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Gentlemen:

I was unable to attend the hearings on land use due to the nature of our business. We have, however, followed the newspapers.

I have delayed writing this letter until now, as I was listening to the reactions of our customers on this Wilderness Group.

I think it is important that these tracts of land the Wilderness Group is trying to gain control of remain available to all types of recreational use.

At D & D Small Engines we sell, service and try to educate our customers in the use of snowmobiles, lawn mowers, and bikes. We also think that to educate the people in the use of land for their pleasure is better than saying 'stay out unless you walk'. My family and I enjoy the out-of-doors as much as anyone and we are all agreed that the land can be used for all outdoor people.

We are also against the proposed developments of the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes areas.

Sincerely,



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Gil Vaillant  
Ethel Hiscock  
A.E. Vaillant

2609 - 5 Ave. N.W.,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
July 31, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I was unable to attend the hearings on Land Use in the eastern Rockies, but I am quite concerned with this subject.

I have heard that the Wilderness Association is trying to gain control of most of the recreational land in the foothills for hikers, hunters and fishermen only. I feel this is wrong as my family and friends enjoy going to these areas both in winter and summer and we would be very disappointed if all motor vehicles were excluded from the crown land areas.

I feel it is very important to keep these areas open to both hiking, riding, fishing and snowmobiling, so everyone can enjoy their type of sport.

We are also much opposed to any large commercial developments in the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes areas.

Yours truly,

*Gil Vaillant*  
*Ethel Hiscock*  
*A.E. Vaillant*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Jim Frew.

Jim Frew  
834 Rideau Road  
Calgary, Alberta  
June 8, 1973

Dr. Walter R. Trost  
Chairman of the Environment  
Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

We address ourselves to you with the intent of voicing our fears and hopes in regard to the spectrum of resource extraction and commercial recreational developments which will be presented to you in public hearings to be held in Calgary and Canmore concerning the Bow River Basin, particularly the Canmore Corridor.

We, comprised of hikers, backpackers and mountain climbers, regard the Forestry Reserve in the Canmore area, particularly the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes region, as being a prime wilderness region. Up until now any development in this area was at a primitive level - roads were merely graveled and campgrounds were pleasantly close to nature. Now, however, development has picked up at a feverish pitch in regard to the 200-foot road allowance being presently prepared for the paved highway which will eventually stretch through the majority of the Forestry Reserve.

Anticipating this development as only the beginning of things yet to come, we most heartily oppose any commercial recreation of resource development in this area.

Realizing, however, that the increasing number of tourists passing through the Canmore Corridor require a variety of services, we would like to propose that a minimum number of these services be

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address

1632 ch. h. 1<sup>st</sup>. n.c.

1241

## A.A. FISHER HOLDINGS LTD.

LUMBER • RAILROAD TIES

P.O. Box 610

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

Postal Code: TOM 1T0

Telephone: Bus. 845-3939 • Res. 845-3265

### LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from A.A. Fisher.

April 17, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

#### Re: Resource Development in Eastern Slopes

We wish to express our views in regard to areas which have been set aside for parks, recreation areas, and such other reservations as are common to our province. These are very essential to our area; however, we must also consider our ever-demanding industries and the call on our resources, and of course our personal operations in the lumbering business.

We feel that this operation should not conflict with areas now set aside for parks, and on the other hand new parks or other reservation should not conflict with industry. In many instances areas set apart for lumbering are not accessible to the motoring public in their present condition.

Lumbering in our province is a very essential industry and should be given every opportunity to exist and expand as our markets demand. It would not be to the best interest of our population in general to stop or restrict an industry so that the motoring public once or twice each year might enjoy and/or destroy such areas. If it were not for our industries many people could not afford travel and enjoyment of recreation areas. We believe that parks, recreation and industry should go hand-in-hand since these are very essential to our way of life and that they should not be in conflict with each other.

Areas which have been timbered off in the past should be given every opportunity by forestry replanting and developed into parks if the area surrounding is conducive to this type of development.

Respectfully submitted.

Yours truly,

A.A. Fisher Holdings Ltd.

Per: *A.A. Fisher*  
A.A. Fisher

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Leanne Murdock.

May 23, 1973

Dear Sirs:

I definitely and very strongly feel that the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains should remain undeveloped, untamed and unruined as for what they are today.

I fail to understand why people want to change it, for in anyone has experienced the wildness within it I know that these are the people who appreciate it and would never want it to change. I can see that people are looking for places to get away and enjoy the great outdoors, but if it fills up with hotels, motels, swimming pools and gas stations they are only entering another man-made world full of campers and trailers and the other is lost forever. Please think about it. If you agree that this area of beauty should be available to more people, may I suggest that these people dig out their packsacks, become open in the air and learn to be a part of nature and experience the real thing. Learn to love our land.

But it's wildlife which I am most deeply concerned for. This area is the last of the wilderness in which they are allowed to live. Please don't destroy their home and replace them for golf clubs.

I suggest that if they hundred million dollars is so eager to be spent that it should take the path to clean up the pollution and mess in our already DEVELOPED (?), (or under-developed) areas. Or is it that that eager money is really looking for more of its own kind and it sees a vulnerable breeding place? They say beauty is a short-lived reign but in this case it makes me sad because if this natural beauty is overpowered into a money-making jackpot it certainly will be short-

reigned because it has fragile ruler and we all know Mother Nature will let her wildlife disappear from there. It's true that money also seems beautiful but in one generation of a few people's lives that too is short-reigned in the total years and generations to be. So the question stands; which is more beautiful, what mankind considers beautiful for himself or God's creation?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leanne Murdock". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'L' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Leanne Murdock



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from S.B. Jonsson.

Innisfail, Alberta  
June 19, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta

Gentlemen:

In regard to east slope hearings, I would like to let you know my views and experience in regard to this area.

When I arrived in Alberta 24 years ago, I found the west country of Alberta something out of this world. Whenever you went there it was so peaceful and you could see wild animals just about anywhere. I enjoy hunting and fishing but that is not any main concern. Getting away from the every day noise and stress and to be able to find a place to get away to, that is what counts.

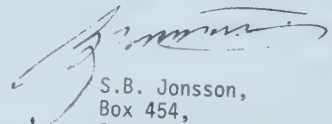
Looking at the same country side now what do you see--cutlines and oil rigs criss crossing everywhere, gas plants and its smokestack standing out like a sore thumb in the forest area. Creeks that used to have grass covered banks are now trampled by domestic cattle to black lookings scars in mountain meadows. The animals that are left are scared back into the high mountains by jeeps, snowmobiles and like motor vehicles. Besides most of the meadows have the grass eaten off by cattle anyway.

I have been walking over the hills south of Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch many times. I understand that there is a plan to develop this area for a ski resort. I like skiing but just thinking of destroying this particular game area is outrageous.

For these reasons I would like to see stricter rules of developments on the east slopes of the Rocky Mountains. I realize that there are places where development for modern recreation has to be made available, but make sure they do not clash with the nature or animal habitat. The man was born with two legs and is now starting to rediscover them and wants to use them so let us leave some places that are not all asphalt and smog. I just returned from a trip to Europe and visited the Austrian Alps. There are now people swarming in from all over Europe but as most places have been developed long ago, the small backward villages are getting over-run and people who are looking for peace and fresh air are starting to find the same there as at home. We do not realize or appreciate the value of the west country.

In conclusion, I would like to state that we already have done too much damage but most is repairable if we start looking after it now. If we go further the way we have been future generations will have to go to something like a zoo or museum to see what true nature really did look like. Besides who gave this generation the right to tear up and destroy all the resources we have? If we continue the way we do we might go down in history as the generation that did to our country what Nero did to Rome in Italy.

Yours truly,



S.B. Jonsson,  
Box 454,  
Innisfail, Alta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: J. Moreau

June 5, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: A PROPOSED PARK!

I am a student, who just recently went on a camping trip out west. I later learned that there is a proposed plan to make the area a park.

You do understand what will happen, don't you? People are going to take advantage of the park or just the land itself and take the wilderness out of the area. Can you imagine gas stations and cottages blocking the migration routes of the various Rocky Mountain animals?

I hope, who is ever in charge of this proposal, will give the west a second thought. After all the wilderness won't be here forever!

Cordially yours,

Joanne Moreau.  
Spruce View Student.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: A.P. Pierson

February 28, 1973

Dear Sirs;

I am 42 years old and have been using the forest reserve area for recreation such as hunting, fishing, and camping from 1940 to 1963. Since then I have become interested in horses from 1963 to 1966; then went from horses to trail motorcycles and trail riding of motorcycles.

I would like to see the forest reserve left open to the public without too much commercialization of public land. Our forefathers of this province had the forethought of saving this great part of the country for all of our use.

But, as progress and more people are going to use this land, there probably has to be changes made. If this has to happen, then I would like to see areas used by all types. Recreation, mining, lumbering, fishing, hunting, and sight-seeing can be done in the same area and still get along with the proper foresight in the land use of all.

In the last 5 years we have been holding a motorcycle cross country 40 mile trail ride in the Castle River region. Once a year we have it and it has been built into a recreation for people as far as Seattle, Washington and as far north as the North West Territories, east to Saskatchewan.

If you are going to allow development of private developers in the forest reserve; which I think should not happen, then I would like to submit that I be allowed to develop an area that could be used for motorcycle trail riding in the summer months, and snow machines in the winter. But, could the same area also be used for all, and open to all such as horses, jeeps, mining, forestry, hunting.

Motorcycle trail riding is a fast growing recreation, we cannot all hunt, fish, ski etc. it gets too crowded; so there has to be other outlets to do. If you are going to

allow private development, I would like to submit a plan for an area in detail at a later date for a private development or a club proposal for special area for motorcycles and the such.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arthur P. Pierson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Arthur P. Pierson  
HARDIEVILLE ALBERTA

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: M.E. Spencer

Mr. M.E. Spencer,  
485 - 6th Street, West,  
CARDSTON, Alberta.  
8 February, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

The biggest problem in conservation is that the public is told what to do and not asked what they would like done.

Also the government hires folk like yourselves to do the work, but an unemployed person like myself has no chance to make even one thin dime no matter that we have proposals of great value.

I would like to receive some pay for this suggestion if it is ever used. Not a gift to the government.

The first step in conservation is the elimination of burning of all slash.

The beavers showed us the value of using such slash for the preservation of the land.

Put the slash in the gullies with the butts pointing up stream. Anchor them well with wire or rock. Then nature will do the rest. Grass and dirt will catch and form a dam. The pond above the dam will eventually become a meadow.

This pond fills the underground aquifers and the new growth is more rapid.

The fine branches downstream break the fall of the water so that the dam does not wash out.

We killed the beaver that made this land and now we must do the job that he did in order to preserve the land.

If the forest is worth harvesting it is worth the effort to insure a new forest growing.

The world has changed and people no longer walk great distances

or ride great distances. Horses do more damage to the wilderness than do machines in transporting an equal amount of people into a given area.

We need to have more good roads to look-out points and parking at such points.

I have crippled folk at my house who can neither ride or walk. Nobody needs the peace of the wilderness more than a person who is a shut-in.

Even folk that are healthy do not want to walk great distances. The scenery is just as nice from a short trail as it is if you walk ten miles. You cannot see very far looking into the trees. Therefore trails should be paved where possible to a point of interest and end there. It is true that some will wander and the fragile plant life in the immediate neighborhood suffer.

This should be replaced by seeding varieties of plants such as lawn grass that can bear some traffic. Whether the plant is native or imported makes it no prettier to look at. The biologists can go into the remote parts for study but the tourist is not a biologist. He just wants to see something that is nice to see.

There is the problem of litter.

Offer a prize for the best photo of a litter bug. Make posters of the photo or publish it in the paper. This is done when the letter is drawn for the awarding of the prize. If the person is breaking the law by decorating the bushes with kleenex it does not matter who they are - the criminal act will not be hidden. It might be a picture of a thoughtless moment of yours. Therefore when we are in the wilderness we will be very careful to do nothing that would cause us to be on a poster. Have you seen this man doing this. Perhaps it is discarding a candy bar wrapper or an empty cigarette carton or any other thing.

Even our existing roads could have many more stopping places.

West of the town of Magrath there is a beautiful view that looks for miles and miles. No place to sit a while. It is beautiful both day and night.

One caution.

Drivers should be warned at each rest stop not to leave their cars. I had an experience in the States that illustrates this point. We were far from nowhere. The toilet was out of sight of the road.\* I left my wife in the car but she was outside on the side away from the

car. A car stopped but when they saw my wife they took off fast. Had there been nobody at the car it is probable they would have taken anything they could get. If I had left my keys in the car it too could have been taken.

These signs have a dual value. They protect the people that are enjoying the scenery. They protect the environment by keeping the folks from wandering off the paved paths.

Remember this. A road half a mile away cannot be seen through the trees. With more tourists there needs to be more roads. These do not need to go great distances to be of value. Nobody sees anything at high speeds.

A very short trail into the bush is to reach a point where the trees mask the sounds of the road. A car is safe if parked at a gas station etc.

There are many trees that would grow much faster and take more abuse than native trees. These should be introduced wherever the native vegetation shows signs of wear. Man is a foreign species to the wilderness and must provide other species that better survive with man.

Thank the authorities for the roads they have made and add the request for places to stop and let the hurry bugs go by.

Also protect my personal environment and if you find this information of value find a way that I can receive something for it. A stroke took me from my truck driving job. Have an inventive talent. That is why I am able to create new ideas and a different approach to the subject. Far better to face problems of the future than to say that it would be better if we lived in the past.

Yours truly

M.E.Spencer

*M. E. Spencer*



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: J.T. Johnston

R.R. 1,  
Rocky Mountain House,  
Alberta.  
TOM 1T0.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

As a citizen of Alberta I read with interest the report concerning the number of developments planned for the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

First; The Indians who live in the Bighorn area have been there for many years. The Bighorn dam has robbed them of the pasture for their horses and game animals that they were guaranteed the right to hunt. Then they were given a part of the Kootenay Plains (which is rightfully theirs anyhow) only to have it snatched away and another area given to them, with the proviso "No Development!"

If these people were given a good grassy valley and some of the buffalo, which are surplus at Elk Island, from time to time, perhaps they could develop a tourist centre where they could sell Buffalo Burgers, and various handicrafts. Then perhaps they could become self supporting and get off welfare. Let us not have another "Battle of the Bighorn."

It seems we already have a centre nearly built at the Cline River. One more for the Indians should be enough for that area. Let's not get carried away with these tourist developments. They would drive the wild animals away, and deprive them of food.

Second, the pulp companies should do their cutting in strips across the hill, with strips of timber left standing to control erosion. Farmers are compelled to take steps to avoid erosion, why not pulp companies too? After the cut strips were planted and ground cover established the older timber could then be cut.

(...con't)

Third, the mining companies should leave the area in a reasonably smooth condition, and plant it to grass or trees, depending on the natural cover of the area before they went in there.

Fourth, I think it would be better to divert the people to the water instead of changing the course of the rivers.

AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY WATER FOR SALE OUTSIDE OUR BORDERS.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Jessie I. Johnston*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Glen Carmichael

#5 - 10656 - 102nd Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.  
June 11th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

Lynne Bell in the Journal of June 9th says, "If you want to tell your dream write the Environment Conservation Authority." My "dream" is of the Sturgeon River developed from Lake St. Anne to its mouth with hundreds of trout pools, satisfying hundreds of thousands of fishermen whose fees add millions of dollars to provincial coffers. This would offset the millions that have to be spent to divert fresh mountain water from the McLeod to the Wolf to the Pembina to the Sturgeon, revitalizing Lake Isle, Lake St. Anne, and Lake Wabamum as a side bonus.

Sites for dams have already been surveyed, and plans pretty well developed. True "environmentalists", employees of the Water Resources Branch, have been working on these surveys and plans for years. Many modern would-be "environmentalists" will holler "No more dams"; you will have a most interesting time sorting out the truth from the fiction. Good luck to you!

*Respectfully yours  
Glen Carmichael*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Jennifer J. Samek  
and A. F. Samek

Calgary, Alberta  
July 7, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
Edmonton

Dear Sir:

Here are our views concerning the disposition of the Rockies East Slope.

First, we would like to say we do not belong to any organization but do use the East Slopes for camping, skiing, hiking and sightseeing.

We endorse the nine wildland recreation areas as proposed by the Alberta Wilderness Association. Twenty percent of the East Slope is not too great an area to protect for watershed and game management, recreation etc.

Resource development such as strip mining should not be allowed on prime recreation land, i.e. headwaters of Sheep-Elbow Rivers and Kananaskis valley. In any case it should not be allowed anywhere on as large a scale as the Kaiser Resources in the Elk Valley.

Grazing leases should be permitted as at present. Only a very limited number of resorts should be allowed and only those with a high certainty of success. Let's not have a mountain range strewn with abandoned resort buildings, ski tows, etc. The government should especially question resort development far from main arterial highways which would ruin virgin wilderness. Also roads to resorts should not be built at public expense.

The use of trail bikes, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles should be discouraged. Aside from the obvious environmental damage they do, the noise created by them detracts greatly from the pleasure others seek in the wilds.

We also feel the Canadian Youth Hostels Association should be allowed to build hostels within the reserve boundaries. This responsible organization provides a healthy and wholesome curriculum of activities for our young people.

In summing up we would like to stress to the government our belief that recreation and not resource development will benefit the people of Alberta to a greater degree both materially and spiritually.

We commend the government for holding hearings on the disposition of the East Slopes in order that the public can air their views. It is our hope that the government will heed the wishes of the majority of briefs presented. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

*A. F. Samek*  
*Jennifer J. Samek.*

A. F. Samek,  
Jennifer J. Samek,  
2854-Oakman Crescent,  
Calgary, Alberta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Avenger Sports & Equipment Ltd.

401-Forge Rd. S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T24 0S9

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

I am writing in regards to people wanting to close the forests down.

We are a sporting goods store. We sell and service motorcycles and snowmobiles and all the accessories. If the forests are closed down we will have to find something else to sell. The distributors will lose for they must employ a large number of people. Alberta will lose a great and growing industry. Alberta does not need more unemployed people.

Most of our customers are family people who use the forests all year round. If the forests are closed where will all the people go? If the government brings in a shorter work week what will all these people do with their free time?

People on the average use the forests. They buy a car, truck or a bus to pull a trailer or they have a camper. They have motorcycles and snowmobiles. All these vehicles need licenses, insurance, gas, oil and repairs which bring a lot of taxes into Alberta.

Where are thousands of people going to go camping, snowmobiling and motorcycling? Most people don't want to pay for campgrounds, for most of them can't afford them. Where are the people going to go; the campgrounds are overcrowded now.

There is more money spent in Alberta on motorcycles and snow-mobiles than there is on hikers and skiers. People must have some place to spend their leisure time.

People use the forests for hunting and fishing. What will the stores do that sell these things? If they do close the large area down that they want, it will create a lot of businesses closing down and unemployment.

These are our views. We thank you for reading them.

Thank you.

Avenger Sports

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: J.R. Robison

July 16, 1973

P.O. Box 989,

Whitecourt, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

The Alberta Trappers Association is very concerned with the implications of widespread development of the Eastern Slopes, either commercial or recreational, in particular, strip mining.

Large recreational developments such as the 60 square mile area proposed by J. Unger at Sundre would completely eliminate at least one trapline. It should be recognized that these lines have been held by the same trappers for many years and represent much time and effort in laying out his line and building cabins. His trapline is the one asset he has and sole means of retaining his independence. A large number of these older trappers would have to turn to welfare for survival.

What happens in the clearcut method of forest harvest. We don't know. Possibly the checkerboard pattern may even improve his trapping but what happens to his cabins? What of the cost and time involved in laying out his line and building cabins. His trapline is the one asset he has and sole means of retaining his independence. A large number of these older trappers would have to turn to welfare for survival.

What happens in the clearcut method of forest harvest? We don't know. Possibly the checkerboard pattern may even improve his trapping but what happens to his cabins? What of the cost and time involved in laying out new lines?

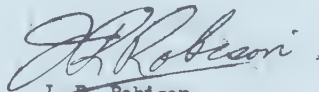


We are completely opposed to strip mining. We do not believe the citizens of this province should pay anyone to rape our land as is the case with Grande Cache. A project such as this will never pay dividends to the province. There is no rush to get rid of our resources, they become more and more valuable with each passing day and until the time arrives that the jobs are needed for Albertans and the province can realize a decent return from their exploitation, leave them where they are at.

We believe that multiple use of our land can be accomplished with minimal disturbance to any one group, provided stringent controls are provided and enforced. We do not agree however with a scattering of commercial developments; these should be restricted to the existing east-west corridors and wherever feasible should be encouraged to locate in existing towns and villages rather than pockets of permanent populations scattered throughout the foothills.

We are also opposed to gas plants being situated back in the wilderness as is the case with the area southwest of Rocky Mountain House and the Chevron plant on Pine Creek. Could these plants not have been centralized and the gas piped to the plant? In the case of Chevron, to the Windfall area where such a plant already existed. Rail and roads were there; instead the plant was built south of Fox Creek. The railroad and highway followed up Pine Creek, with the result, another fine stream ruined. In addition to this, a highway is now needed at public expense.

Sincerely yours,



J. R. Robison

FOR ALBERTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter by: Robert N. Smith, Mary M. Smith

Seebe, Alberta.  
TOL 1X0.

9912 - 107 Street,

Edmonton, Alberta.

T5K 1G5

Dear Sirs:

(a) GENERAL:

The prime consideration in the development of the recreational potential of the Bow Corridor should be the protection of areas of unique interest and beauty. With such areas destroyed or degraded by thoughtless development, there will be less to attract the tourist to the region.

An interesting example is to be found in a past development, the Three Sisters Subdivision service centre, traffic interchange and rock quarry at Deadman's Flat. Deadman's Flat was a beautiful place, with a large meadow, deciduous woods containing a remarkable variety of plant life, a beautiful creek and a waterfall.

The service centre destroyed the meadow, the interchange and part of the service centre destroyed most of the woods, and the quarry ruined the creek and the waterfall. The campground, at the edge of the former meadow, was the only part of the project that was reasonable, as the area was a marvelous place for camping and walking, and picnics.

The ski development, above the flats on Pigeon Mountain, was far less objectionable, as it used a mountainside that was quite typical of hundreds of others to be found in the area. Thus, in one small area, examples of bad and good recreational development can be seen, as well as the combination with a small industry leading to total disaster.

It is a mystery why the service was located there in the first place, as it is very close to Canmore, while there are very few facilities at all between there and the outskirts of Calgary. A similar development on the east side of the Stoney Indian Reserve would have been much more useful.

## (b) THE YAMUSKA AREA:

Another even more unique area is now threatened. It is the region bounded on the south by Highway 1-A, on the north by Mt. John Laurie (formerly Yamnuska) and Loder Peak, on the west by the Steele Brothers limestone quarries and plants, and on the east by the Stoney Indian Reservation. It is an area of great biological interest. The plants of the mountains, foothills, parklands and prairies mingle here. There are many different types of habitat, including large natural meadows, coniferous and deciduous woods, bogs and marshes, small lakes and ponds, springs, creeks, eskers, cliffs, rock slides and hidden valleys. Birdlife is also remarkably varied. In addition to small mammals, white-tail deer, mule deer, elk and moose are occasionally seen.

The region is already showing signs of deterioration. A large sandstone quarry is located at the west end of a beautiful sandstone bluff much favored as a rock school by climbing organizations, and also as a walk which affords a panoramic view of the valley and the plains to the east. The quarry is increasing its operations and it appears that the entire cliff could eventually be destroyed. Joyriders are extending the dirt-track roads every year, and widening the present ones as the erosion of the topsoil makes the older tracks rutted and bumpy, making it attractive to drive on the smooth meadows alongside. There are a large number of illegal campsites and bonfire sites, where garbage and litter is slowly accumulating. The area is being increasingly used as a graveyard for old cars. Illegal timber cutting has occurred in one location within the last two years. This summer a new road, bridge and large bulldozed areas have appeared which are as yet a mystery to the writers.

A game farm has been established at the east end, in a very narrow strip adjoining the Indian Reserve. It is there because it was made unwelcome on the land at Harvie Heights which is now proposed for use as a resort, golf course and landing strip. This should give reason to ponder which type of development is more suitable in a natural area.

Now, there is another game farm being proposed for the area, which will be of considerable size. Also, there are some mysterious proposals

to be placed on sites "between Seebe and Banff National Park". This vague description could well mean more development at the Yamnuska.

Grazing has become heavier in recent years, and some spots show signs of overgrazing.

The Yamnuska area is the first natural area available to the west-bound traveller on 1-A highway, as everything to the east is Indian Reservation and ranches. As such, it is of prime importance to the Calgarian as well as the general tourist. A most suitable use for the area would be a nature information centre and a variety of short and long nature trails. Small campsites and picnic areas could be provided along the central and western portions near the highway. Supervision is needed to prevent illegal open fires and campsites, abuse by vehicular traffic, and other improper uses of the region.

To accomplish this, the area could be supervised by staff from the Bow Valley Provincial Park if it were annexed by the park as a natural Protected Area, or, if a nature information centre was established, staff could be located there to supervise and police the area.

It would be suitable to also limit or completely stop the quarry operation, as we are given to understand that rock of similar composition is to be found elsewhere.

The current popularity of the area with hikers, botanists, ornithologists, geologists, climbers, family picnics, and campers (illegal though they may be at present), should indicate the worthiness of establishing it under some sort of official protection and limiting further development. The present roads should be improved to the point where it will no longer be a temptation for vehicles to drive over the meadows at random. These roads are sufficient to allow everyone to enjoy the beauty of the area, and bring the most interesting portions within the reach of even the casual walker. No further roads should be needed, and possibly some of the present ones should be closed off except to foot traffic. Limited grazing could still be feasible, as until recently no noticeable damage had been done by the few horses pasturing there over the years.

(c) KANANASKIS HIGHWAY:

A paved road with parking shoulders is needed in the Kananaskis valley, but the first 12 miles under construction are not at all an indication of the sort of road it should be. It is possible to have a safe road and still follow the general contours of the valley, rather than making massive cuts and diverting the river. We hope the remainder of the road will be constructed with reasonable regard for the beauty spots in the valley.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Robert N. Smith and Mary M. Smith. Robert N. Smith's signature is on the left, and Mary M. Smith's signature is on the right, connected by a horizontal line.

Robert N. Smith, Mary M. Smith.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Frank F. Gray

4512 - 4A Street, S.W.,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
T2S 2A1.  
23 May, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912- 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I understand that hearings regarding land use in the Alberta foothills and mountains will be conducted in the near future. Undoubtedly the so-called "environmentalists" groups will be out in force to tell us what we should and shouldn't do. These groups will have the additional incentive of an opportunity to attack recent proposals by private enterprise to develop recreational potential of the area.

Most individuals are too busy making a living to take time to involve themselves, but there must surely be a large number who would appreciate and utilize recreational facilities in this area if they were available. The need for skiing facilities is particularly acute. The present facilities are simply ludicrous, when measured against the large and growing demand by skiers, the suitability of terrain and climate for the sport, and the apparent willingness of investors to develop the potential. And yet they will never improve if we let the self-appointed protectors of the "environment" tell us what we can and cannot have. How can the private individual make his desires known to the Authority?

Yours very truly,

*Frank F. Gray*  
Frank F. Gray

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Percy Gardner.

R.R. 1  
Nanton, Alta.  
July 10, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sir:

Re: Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes

I have at hand your notice of public meetings as published in the Calgary Herald on May 7, 1973 on land use and resource development in the Eastern Slopes to be held at various centres, with a list of numerous developments to be discussed. These developments all seem to be recreational with no mention of mining or oil development, which are also resources.

I would say from what I know of this area, namely the headwaters of Willow Creek, Oldman River and Highwood River to Kananaskis Lakes, that it is most important that we should continue our careful management of our renewable resources, that is water, grass and trees, and that development of our non-renewable resources, coal and oil, etc., be held in abeyance, or very slowly developed, so that there will be some of these resources left for the future.

If we and future generations are to live, the proper management of these resources is most important, and, really, recreation should only be considered far down in the list of priorities.

I would not wish to see commercial recreational areas developed on the Eastern Slopes, although it may be necessary to enlarge some of the



present campground, and to have these campgrounds more carefully supervised. All motorized vehicles should stay on the main roads or campgrounds adjacent to the main roads. All-terrain vehicles and tote-goats should also be confined to the main roads, as they damage the terrain and disturb the game animals. Snowmobiles should be kept out as I cannot see any place for them here.

I think that the development of wilderness areas would be an excellent idea as this would be the only way to maintain some semblance of our original mountain country. I would be much in favor of farming these areas. If there are roads in these areas, close them off to the public, and only maintain them so that the people in authority may patrol these areas.

These observations are made after being in the area for seventy years and observing the changes from a horse-and-buggy era to a highly mobilized era that is dependent on gasoline and other oil products which are non-renewable resources that could be shortly used up - and so back to our horse and buggy!

I remember the dry year of 1910 when most of the present forestry was burnt off from the boundary to the Bow River. The Dominion Government formed the forest reserves and built ranger stations in 1912. We have neighbored with the Willow Creek forest rangers for 60 years until they were centralized in 1972, a retrograde step. These men are needed in their districts to protect our resources and to supervise the public, and not to be driving miles on roads outside their district or sitting in an office miles away.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Percy Gardner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Percy Gardner".



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: B. Rawson, Chairman, Provincial Board of Health.

May 18, 1973

The Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5

Attention: Ms. Rita Bougie

Provincial Board of Health Submission  
in Respect to Land Use and Resource  
Development in the Eastern Slopes

1. Much of our rural subdivision and lakeside development is taking place in the Eastern Slopes. Development in areas designated for public hearings on land use raise certain concerns in areas of public health responsibility. These are in respect to planning of residential communities and recreational cottage development, but include also tourist recreational resorts, ski resorts, mobile home parks, and campgrounds. Public health concerns center around this adequacy and safety of private water supplies and pollution and nuisance potential of private sewage disposal, and facilities for the retention and disposal of refuse and wastes.
2. Planning is needed in the establishment of subdivisions which adjoin lakes and streams regarding the disposal of sewage and the possible effect on surface and subsurface waters. We must anticipate that all these properties, at some point in the future, will be served by a water-carried plumbing and drainage system. A supply of potable water sufficient to the needs of a water-carried system will be required and sufficient space required for installation of


a sewage disposal system. The property must provide sufficient usable area to allow the required separation between septic tank and well (25 feet), disposal field and well (50 feet) or leaching cesspool and well (100 feet). These distances in respect to disposal field (50 feet) and leaching cesspool (100 feet) will also apply in respect to a surface water (lake or stream). Distance requirement in respect to septic tank, disposal field and leaching cesspool also apply to a water supply on adjoining properties. Lots of limited dimension do not allow sufficient space for separation of facilities and in particular the space to provide required separation of disposal facility and adjoining surface water or disposal facility and water source on adjoining properties.

3. Where individual lots will adjoin a lake or watercourse the topography of the parcel being subdivided should be stressed rather than the mere dimension of lots within the subdivision. Some developments with hillside lots have as little as one-third of the total area usable for construction. In instances such as these only the area between the residence and lake or watercourse is left for installation of sewage disposal facilities, in most cases insufficient to meet existing distance requirements. At a considerably increased cost and provided there is sufficient level ground to the rear of the lot, sewage can be pumped to some form of disposal facility. Where sufficient space is not available a holding facility must be provided and sewage hauled away for disposal. Such installations, though possibly the only alternative, place the disposal facility above the source of water supply, a contradiction of basic public health principles. Further any breakdown of the facility must result in a sewage flow toward the well and lake or watercourse.
4. Provision for the disposal of refuse and wastes is seldom considered when preparing an application for subdivision. Present legislation would only require provision of a disposal facility where

the development is to take place within a summer village. Regulations would allow the Provincial Board of Health to require the municipality to provide a waste disposal facility in respect to a hamlet. In practice residents make use of neighboring facilities irrespective of ownership in some instances overtaxing a facility initially provided for a limited use.

A situation of greater public health significance exists in respect to rural residential subdivision and recreational cottage development where sewage disposal facilities must be in the form of water-tight pump-out tanks and where sewage effluent must be pumped and hauled. Wherever possible the municipal authority should provide a scheduled pump and haul system provided through the tax base. Quantities of sewage effluent disposed of at refuse disposal sites result in trenches which normally receive relatively dry refuse and wastes being flooded. In addition to the nuisance created a significant threat to the ground water supply exists. Planning for such subdivision should require indication of the availability of facilities for the disposal of refuse and wastes created. Where conditions would prohibit installation of sewage disposal facilities on the property and effluent must be pumped and hauled provision should be made for disposal at a location other than the refuse disposal site.

Submitted on behalf of the Provincial Board of Health.

---

B. Rawson, Chairman  
Provincial Board of Health

## LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Donald Barnes

3234 - 14 St. S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
T2T 3V9

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I am preparing to make this brief in hopes that a wilderness park emerges. At the hearing I wish to express my willingness to work for this natural, environmental and public pursuit. I have some National Topographical Maps for research. I intend to hike into the area to see what needs to be done. If such a condition emerges I would enjoy making a park by taking warden classes at Hinton.

I sent a letter similar to the previous one to Mr. T.A. Drinkwater; I could represent N.P.P.A.C. (National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada) and Canada Youth Hostels. I am in contact with Alberta Wilderness Association. I am for representation for and work for preservation of this area.

I have in mind a certain corridor, south of Canmore: Section 0 of 82 3, West is Canmore:

The wilderness area could be as follows:

B.N. Park Gate, east Rundle, Goat and south	west limit
TransCanada east to Gap and south	east limit
82 J/14 west spray area:	
Goat Range, Spray Lakes, Spray Mountains	west limit
Kananaskis Range	east limit
82 J. 11 Kananaskis Lakes	
Mount Robertson, Mount Worthington, Mount Joffre	west
Mount Fox	south

Mount Kent of Kananaskis Range, Opal Range to  
Elpoca Mt., Mt. Tyrwhitt of Elk Range east  
(about 200 square miles)

This area could be put under special preparation for the next five years and made into a national park. With that in mind the Spray Lakes and Kananaskis Lakes would have the sufficient protection against strip mining. The forests would be tended by a warden properly and pollution and carelessness would be pinned down. The road through the area would be monitored, the lakes stocked with fish, wildlife guarded.

---

Typed copy of a letter received May 23, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority

Dear Mr. Flook:

I must admit I appeared somewhat misleading in my submission to the Authority for a brief. I had written, in a certain space indicating representation, "National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada". I am a member but I must admit they represent my opinion more than I represent theirs. What I am doing is more of this nature: hiking through the valleys to survey the situation. I certainly have an opinion to express. I submitted some information already accepted for a brief.

Thank you.



Member of N.P.P.A.C., Canada Youth Hostels,  
Alberta Wilderness Areas Assn.

1274

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

TYPED COPIES OF LETTERS FROM  
STUDENTS OF THE  
TURNER VALLEY SCHOOL  
TURNER VALLEY, ALBERTA

Typed copies of letters from: Turner Valley Students

June 28, 1973,  
Box 22,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I think we should leave the land just as it is. People like to watch wildlife, not litter. It would kill a lot of animals because there would be overhunting and overfishing, and it would be crowded together.

Respectfully yours,

---

Dear Sir:

I would like to see the campgrounds left alone, and the wilderness. My name is Richard Pon and I liked your idea about the Eastern Slopes. The commercials should be out of the forests. Good Luck.

Yours sincerely,

*Richard Pon.*

---

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

June 22, 1973.

TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I would like to tell you that I don't see why they want to make parks, because I would rather see them left alone for later use.

Yours truly,

*Dean Newman*

---

Dear Sir:

I think that the forests should not be disturbed by development and building of cafes, stores and towns. If they put recreation in they will destroy wildlife and nature and if they destroy nature they destroy life. People think that it is fun to run in a forest and play, well if they want to keep on playing they should write a letter.

Development is good, but not in the forest. The forest is our last resource for wildlife and nature.

Sincerely,

*David Pidge*



Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Tuesday, June 28, 1973.

Dear Sir:

I would think that it would be better to develop parkland because more people are starting to go camping and the parks now are not big enough and there are not enough of them. Instead of being too small and too many of them spread all over in different areas.

When you develop more parks there should be a limit to how long one group can stay.

You should make man-made rivers through the parks that don't have any rivers.

---

Box 92,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I think you should leave the land just as it is because it might take us a lot of room but it probably looks nice there and it does a lot for the animals too; they can eat there and sleep. So I think you should leave it there.

Respectfully yours,

*Darkin Wilford*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

June 26, 1973.

Dear Sir:

I think that they shouldn't put the development in because if they do they will be destroying the homes of the wildlife and also they will pollute the rivers and lakes. Also they will overfish and over-hunt the land and also they will destroy valuable farm land. Also they are destroying what we have been trying to preserve for our children and their children. Also 98% of the people don't stop.

*Shawn  
Beardsley*

---

Dear Sir:

From the information I have heard about the Eastern Slopes, I think that this land should be preserved for nature and wildlife. Animals need room and space to live just like people do. In our Grade 7 Science class we discussed the needs of animals - whether we need them or not. I think animals are very important in our society and we should help them just like we help people.

*Julie Sourley*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

We had Mr. Kyllö talk to our school about the Eastern Slopes. Mr. Hogge talked to us too. I think we should leave the land as it is. There are probably more people who would agree to this. If they did what they are trying to do there would be less wildlife in the area.

Yours sincerely,

*R. Ross Schiloff*

---

June 22, 1973.  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I would like to tell you that I would like to go against development in the parks, because they should be left alone for later use.

Yours truly,

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

June 25th, 1973.  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.  
Box 475.

Dear Sir:

We had two men at our school to talk about the eastern slopes. Leo Kylo was one of those men and he talked about not destroying the eastern slopes. I agree with him a lot. I don't think that they should destroy the eastern slopes because why should they make more parklands when there is an abundant supply of them already. It will ruin more wildlife. And the reservation would be ruined. That is about all I have to say.

Yours truly,

*Bruce Morrison*

---

Dear Sirs:

I do not think that the Bow River forest reserve should be developed, because what will happen to the wild animals, the streams will become filthy and the fish will die. This is the place where we go when we want to get out from the noise of the city, all the smells that make our environment what it is, a filthy mess.

Yours truly,

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Dear Sir:

My name is Tony Gallant and I am for the Environment Conservation Authority. In my very own opinion I think this is a very good suggestion, because there is lots of land left in Alberta and other provinces so this project should be used for campgrounds and playgrounds etc.

Yours truly,

  
Turney Valley School

---

Box 277,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.  
June 25th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I would like to support the fact that we should not let commercial buildings and factories litter the wild country we have. I would like to see the reserves kept in their natural form. I say no to people who want to destroy our natural beauty.

Sincerely yours,

*Nickie Foster.*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

c/o Graham Ranches Ltd.,  
R.R. #8,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
June 25th, 1973.

Dear Sirs:

Two very interesting people, so far, have come to our Turner Valley school and talked about the eastern slopes. They talked on saving our natural resources etc. I agree with them completely for the fact that we ourselves would like to enjoy our trees and squirrels running into our picnic baskets. If oil rigs, gas pumps and other equipment were put in, we wouldn't be able to snap our picture cameras at a mating grouse or a black squirrel. They would hibernate all summer hiding from the cars, people and NOISE.

Yours sincerely,

*Patricia Abbeler*

Turner Valley Public School

---

Dear Sir:

I am writing about the eastern slopes, and I think it would be a good thing to use the eastern slopes for recreation area, fishing and maybe hunting or shooting. If this could be done I would really like it, and I think that most people would be in favor in having it, like I am.

Yours truly,

*Larry Strank*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

June 26, 1973,  
Box 152,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

All this commercializing in the forests and park land is not good. We want undeveloped land for wildlife. If we develop this land to grow things, soon the forest land and life will be diminishing. People like to go into parks to relax and watch small animals. They do not want to look at litter and stuff. So leave the forests and natural resources alone - undeveloped.

Respectfully yours,

*E. J. Day*  
*Edwards*

June 25th, 1973,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta,  
Box 90.

Dear Sirs:

We had two men come and talk to us about the Eastern Slopes. I think the slopes should be preserved for the coming youth. They shouldn't be destroyed because the coming youth deserves the right to see nature as much as we do.

Yours sincerely,

*Andrea Mackay*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Box 505,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.  
June 25th, 1973.

Dear Sir:

I think the Eastern Slopes should be preserved for the up-coming youth who deserve the right to see nature in real life as we do.

Before I decided this we had two very interesting men come and talk to us about these slopes which some people want to develop.

Most students in our school would like to see this land left as it is now. Otherwise we don't want any further development. We live fairly close to the mountains and they're just nice as they are.

Yours truly,

*Pat  
Dunning*

Box 96,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.  
June 25th, 1973.

Dear Sir:

My name is Ron Skelton. I like your idea and I think the eastern slopes should be left alone. I think we should leave it alone so that the young children could have some green woods to walk through.

Yours truly,

*Ron Skelton*



Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I think you should keep the places for wildlife, because in the future there might be no cattle or pigs. So then we have to use the wildlife for food. But if we use it for oil, gas, coal, parks, etc., in the future we won't have any food so we will starve to death.

Sincerely,

*Mary Jane Hudson*

---

Tuesday, June 26th, 1973.

Dear Sir:

I don't think, really I know, they shouldn't put some fancy development or two anywhere on the Eastern Slopes. They will cause tourists and other people to come there and also all the wildlife and fowl will be driven out to starve in some other area where they're not accustomed. Another reason is the trees will all be torn away so they may build a bridge, or whatever is in mind. If they do this, the land will erode, ruin the water and kill the fish. They will pollute the land and water and air which is another bad thing. If I had my say there would be no development on the Eastern Slopes.

Yours truly,

*Stewart Reiss*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Box 368,

June 25th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,

9912 - 107th Street,

EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I would like to tell what I think about the land use hearings. I would not like to see the recreational areas used for the oil and gas industries etc., because there is so little natural beauty left for the younger generation and the generations to come. If they drill for oil and gas it will ruin most of the natural beauty. Maybe we do need gas and oil but we would be better off without it, because oil and gas cause pollution.

Sincerely yours,

*Gerarda Horge*

---

Dear Sir:

I am writing to give you my reviews on what I think of developing the wilderness. I think that they should leave it as is for in many places our wildlife are having enough problems with domestic animals grazing on their winter feeding grounds, and I am saying I (and many others) would like to leave our wilderness as it is.

Yours truly,

*Gerarda Horge*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

June 25th, 1973.

Turner Valley Public School,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

Of the information I have gathered of the Eastern Slopes I am going to give my opinion on what I think.

I think the Slopes should be left for the animals and for the campers. Some people say animals are not very important because they are going to be gone in a couple of years; the only reason they will be gone is because of man. I disagree completely about putting in an industry because why not enjoy our wildlife while we have it. Animals are just as important as man as far as I am concerned; that is my opinion.

Yours truly,

*Kelly Patterson*

---

Dear Sir:

I think that there is a problem that we have to take a look at. The industries that someone wants to put along the eastern slopes are what I am talking about. I think that we should not let these industries take over that land. That is good land, free beautiful land, and why put industries out there to mess it up. Keep the industries out - we will need that land and if we don't keep the industries off we won't have it for long. Keep them out and keep the land clean.

*Deb. Stewart*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Turner Valley Public School,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I think that camping, industry work and things of that nature should be kept out of the forest reserve. I think that the forest reserve should be kept for enjoyment only. The forest is a place where you should be able to go to see wild animals and to breathe fresh air, not to go see garbage.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. P. J.', is located to the right of the first letter's body text.

---

June 25th, 1973.  
Turner Valley Public School,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I would like to state my opinion regarding the use of the eastern slopes. I think that they should be saved for future use and for the animals. Industry will only pollute the outdoors more.

Yours truly,

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

P.O. Box 364,  
Turner Valley Public School,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I would not like to see the Eastern Slopes become a recreation area. The wildlife needs it more than we do so I think that we shouldn't interfere. I think if they use this place for their buildings etc. it will cause a lot of pollution and disturb the wildlife very much. It may even kill them.

Yours truly,

*Arland J. Stone*

---

Turner Valley Public School,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.  
June 25th, 1973.

Dear Sir:

I am very concerned about the Eastern Slopes. I think it should just stay as it is, a park. They should not be commercialized. They should stay beautiful and free for our kids to see and their kids.

Yours truly,

*Bract House*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

June 25th, 1973.

TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I can't exactly make up my mind about what should be done about the use of the eastern slopes. I am completely against strip mining, using the area for timber, and letting people loose to destroy and pollute the land, yet I don't think everyone and everything should be kept out of the area. People have to go to one extreme or another. They either think the land should be used by everyone and everything or they think everyone and everything should be kept out completely. I think there should be certain places for campers to camp, certain areas for hikers to hike, and certain areas for motorcycles to go motorcycling.

Yours truly,

*Hean Shogshka.*

---

P.O. Box 203,

Turner Valley Public School,

TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I would not like to see the Eastern Slopes commercialized because we have got to save them for us. If they use this place then they will use all our national parks for timber, oil, etc. then we have no place to forget the troubles of the modern world.

Yours truly,

*Sam Wong*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Dear Sirs:

I have been led to think more of the areas such as those where they don't allow any motor vehicles or horses. Just man can walk in. The speech that Mr. Kylo gave was excellent and this is what persuaded me to think this way. I think that the forestry areas should not have any trees cut for lumber mills. At least not while there is still plenty of wood outside of the forestry boundaries. And it would be used for oil industries because they don't cut down very many trees. But there should be limits as to how many wells go up and where they go up at. You always have to remember that if you cut down all the trees the wildlife will die.

Yours sincerely,

*Jim Hareston*

---

June 25th, 1973.

TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I don't think that they should change the eastern slopes into a recreation area because it costs a lot of money when they could easily help some of the people in need. Also if they do build more hotels etc. it brings more people, cars, dogs etc. and more pollution. The hotel may bring more people but all our wildlife will disappear.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Pan (Hwy 8 Turner Valley)*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Rod Bettcher,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.  
June 25th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I believe that the Eastern Slopes should not be used for commercial use but used as an area where people can hike, camp and have other fun without the tourist companies, oil companies, lumber companies, etc. Also they made this a reserve to preserve the animals and trees.

Sincerely yours,



---

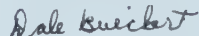
June 25th, 1973.  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I don't think recreation should be used in our reserves. They are our last resources. When people move in, animals move out. Forests burn. Then people have to find other places to spoil. The wildlife would move to some other area where they could find refuge from tourists. After tourists move in, come the hunters, and kill 'em all.

Lets keep our reserves and wildlife.

Sincerely yours,





Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Turner Valley Public School,

TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

June 25th, 1973.

Dear Sir:

I don't think the Eastern Slopes should be used for commercialization. I agree that they should be left alone.

Yours sincerely,

*Dan Howard*

---

Box 543,

TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I would like to bring up the argument about the eastern slopes. I think motorized vehicles such as jeeps, motorcycles, dune buggies, etc. should not be allowed to enter the slopes for any reason other than rescue. I also think that industry, cattle, and horses should be kept out. Industry destroys grazing land and wildlife. Cattle and horses graze the land and destroy winter grazing grounds for deer.

Yours truly,

*Murray Bartee*

Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley School

Dear Sir:

I don't think the eastern slopes should be used for commercial use because most of it causes pollution and the trees provide oxygen for us to breathe. All forests are beautiful places and putting commercial use into the forests wrecks it. If you put more animals into the forest and less commercial use into it any animal would be beautiful. Man cannot live without nature, therefore without nature we would not be able to survive no matter how hard we try. I think that we should keep mostly all forest areas free of commercial use.


Yours truly,



Dear Sirs:

I do not think that the Eastern Slopes should be used for Commercial use. I think it should be left alone for the younger generation to be used for a wildlife park. If we keep commercializing our wildlife parks, then in the years to come, we the younger generation will not have any place to go to enjoy the wildlife as we do today. Stop and think how long it will take to drive out the wildlife which dwell in these parks.

Yours truly,



Typed copies of letters received from: Turner Valley Students

Miss Kelly Beardsley,  
Box 178,  
TURNER VALLEY, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I am against industry moving into the forestry area. Soon there will be no place to go to enjoy yourself, but on the other hand, cattle should be allowed to roam on the wildlife feeding ground.

Yours truly,

*Kelly Beardsley*

---

1296

D. J. FOREST  
26 Warwick Drive S. W.  
Calgary, Alberta T3C 2R4

---

June 14, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107th Street  
EDMONTON, Alberta

BRIEF: Hearing on Land Use and Resource Development on the Eastern Slopes  
of the Rockies

---

Dear Sirs:

The first and most important use of the lands on the Eastern slopes of the Rockies should be for recreational purposes. Other uses of these lands should be secondary to this consideration.

In the forthcoming years shorter work weeks and more leisure time will result in a marked rise in the need for outdoor recreational activities. This will create an increasing need for recreational areas for these activities to take place. The mountain parks are already overcrowded and the only place left to absorb the overflow is the eastern slopes of the Rockies.

Less than 12% of the people in Alberta live on farms and ranches. The others live in towns and cities and for many of them the social and economic stresses of urban living demand a degree of relief that can be satisfied only by recreational activities in a wilderness setting. Since these are the people who own the lands under consideration, the preservation of these lands for their direct use should receive first consideration at all times. In this respect the term "multiple use" has no meaning since once a particular piece of land is given over to resource development it is no longer suitable for recreational use.

In many parts of the world people are restricted to small formal parks stuck in the middle of high rise buildings, cars and crowds. Our Department of Lands and Forests said: "You may think this sort of thing will never happen in Alberta. But it already has.", as quoted from an advertisement over the name of Hon. Allan A. Warrack (copy attached).

Thus it is imperative that large areas of the eastern slopes of the Rockies be set aside by legislation (not just order-in-council) for the recreational needs of our future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

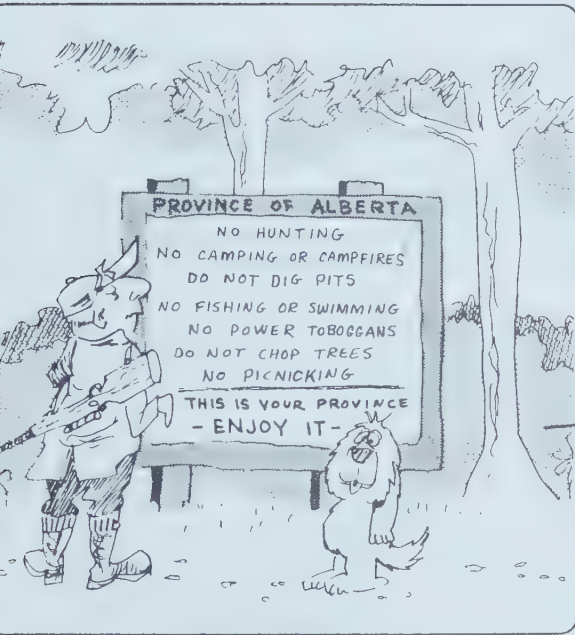
  
D. J. Forest

DJF/bas

encl.

# no place to go

1975? 1980? 1985?



In many parts of the world, people have no place to go to "get away from it all!" They have no place for outdoor recreation. Little or no access to lakes and streams. And wherever they travel, they see signs saying "no hunting," "no fishing," and "no trespassing."

These people are restricted to small formal parks stuck in the middle of high rise buildings, cars and crowds.

// You may think this sort of thing will never happen in Alberta. //

But it already has.

And it's going to get worse, unless we change our attitudes about the use and abuse of public and private land.

We must, as individuals and organized groups, realize that outdoor recreation is not a "right," but a privilege. We must train ourselves and our children to respect the land, the land-owner and each other.

So we'll have somewhere to go.



## Alberta

Department of Lands & Forests

Hon. Allan A. Warrack  
Minister

Dr. V. A. Wood  
Deputy Minister

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

328 Willow Park Drive, S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2J OK8

July 13, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

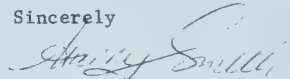
Dear Sir:

Being unable to attend the hearings on "Land Use in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies" I have followed the reports in the newspaper.

My wife and I along with many of our friends have been in the habit of using the foothills for camping, walking, fishing, trailbike riding and snowmobiling for a number of years. It disturbs me to see that such a minority group as the Wilderness Association are trying to close large areas of land for their exclusive use. It is vital that this land remain open for all types of family recreation.

I would also like to say that I am not in favour of large commercial developments in the popular areas, Pigeon Mountain and Snowridge Ski Resorts have both closed, let us not have more of these throughout the foothills area.

Sincerely

  
Harry Smith

  
Isabelle Smith

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
OFFICE: PH. (403) 432-3308  
CHAIRMAN: PH. (403) 432-3464



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
EDMONTON, CANADA  
T6G 2E1

June 27, 1973

The Environment Conservation Authority  
99th Avenue and 107th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

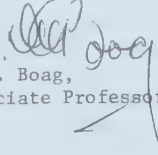
Dear Sirs:

Re: Land Use and Resource Development on East Slopes

I wish to record my position on the above topic.

I refer you to the Alberta Lands and Forests and Environment publication "The resources of the foothills: a choice of land use alternatives." In that document the reader is asked to opt for one of the series of alternative management strategies. I believe the only reasonable strategy is "Management Strategy C." In opting for this strategy I believe it is imperative that administrative agencies realize that not all resources will be developed in all areas. It is obvious that some areas have much greater potential than others for any of the numerous extractive and non-extractive resources. This implies, therefore, a form of zoning within the area based on priorities. I believe also that in arriving at decisions on priorities for land use, the administrative agency must always keep in mind the Province's constant need of clear drinking water for its citizenry as well as wild lands for their recreational use. Neither of these demands will decline in the future; such cannot be said, however, for the use of many of the non-renewable resources. One final point, which must be considered by people responsible for instrumenting a management policy, is that throughout the East Slopes Area there must be a regulatory force whose presence is felt within the area, not only to ensure that conflicts in land use are minimized, but also to prevent the recreation-seeking public from degrading the environment as well as destroying recreation experience of their fellow countrymen.

Yours sincerely,

  
D. A. Boag,  
Associate Professor

DAB/smb

*Angus G. MacKenzie*

MINING CONSULTANTS LTD.

*Evaluation - Exploration - Feasibility - Development - Production*

July 10, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I have been following the hearings on "Land Use" in the Eastern Slopes with much interest. However, from the newspaper and other media reports it appears to me to have assumed an ALARMING course wherein a "chosen few", namely the so-called Wilderness Association, are attempting to gain exclusive control of a large area of Alberta.

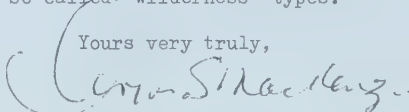
Our family and many of our friends have, for many years, made use of these areas for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, trail-bike riding and just plain sit-down-walk-a-bit enjoyment of the area. Are we to be denied our civil right to choose our own type of recreation in the area of our choice or are we to be banned from exercising our civil and human rights in the manner in which we find our own type of recreation?

I am also opposed to commercial development with forms of TOURIST attractions such as ski slopes, etc., etc., in these areas. In the long run such enterprises usually end up in the lap of Americans (Foreign), and as a matter of fact, the proposals put forward appear to be American backed from the start. e.g. Dillingham.

I recall writing to the Minister of Mines a long time ago warning him that the Dillingham take-over of Canmore Mines was nothing else but a land-grab. This is exactly what the Dillingham deal turned out to be - nothing but an American land-grab.

Let us put a stop to this type of thing and leave the areas as they always have been - for the enjoyment of all who REALLY make use of them and not a few ARM-CHAIR so called "Wilderness" types.

Yours very truly,



ANGUS G. MacKENZIE, P. Eng., MCIM

AGM/mty

cc: Hon. W. Dickie,  
Minister of Mines



# GROSSER AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIES LTD.

P.O. BOX 6691 STATION "D"

Wholesale Auto Supplies

BRANCH OFFICE,  
9 MANILLA ROAD  
CALGARY 24, ALBERTA  
PHONE 243-8330

TELEPHONE 263 5060

1012 - 9TH AVENUE SW

CALGARY 2, ALBERTA

July 13, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
2912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton Alberta

Gentlemen:

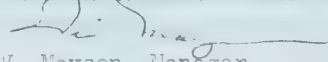
I was not able to attend the hearings on "Land Use" in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies but have been following the newspaper stories with interest.

I am alarmed that a small user group called the Wilderness Association are trying to gain control of large tracts of prime recreational land in our foothills for the exclusive use of hikers, hunters and fishermen. Myself, family and many of my friends are long time users of these areas which we use both summer and winter for hiking, riding, fishing and snowmobiling. It is very important that this land remain accessible for all types of recreation and not fall into the hands of a small group for their exclusive use.

We also are concerned that the large commercial developments proposed in the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes areas will become another high priced fiasco similar to the Village Lake Louise proposal and we would be very much against this type of development.

Yours very truly,

GROSSER AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIES LTD.



V. Mayson, Manager

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Aksel Reinholdt

205 - 7 Ave. N.E.  
Calgary, Alberta.  
July 4, 1973.

Dr. W.R. Trost and Board Members,  
Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I was at your environment meeting at 7:30 p.m. the first hearing in Calgary. Chief Snow was not so selfish in his viewpoints as those I heard till 9 p.m., at which time I went home to sleep as I get up at 5:30 a.m.

I have hiked, backpacked, campground tented, hunted, fished, sailed and swam the rivers and lakes for the past twenty-four years, enjoying about thirty days per years in the forestry.

After talking forest reserve use with many people I think I represent the silent enthusiastic public for our very well-managed forest reserves. I have enjoyed the forest recreation above all other recreation for peace of mind, for happiness and excitement, for tranquillity plus sheer horror at times.

I have found the forests very well managed, not yielding too much to pressures. There have been profits for the greedy, pleasure for all that I've observed. Pollution has never been too serious from what I've seen, though fellow equipment workers have told of working on oil rigs where thousands of gallons of fuel have been let loose.

Now I believe the pressures to really exploit and lower the quality of pleasures to be derived from the forestry are upon the officials.

I think the backpackers, environmentalists, etc. should just get out and enjoy it all, no need to close off areas or build nice paths to walk on.

The greedy coal, gas and cattle-owning people can invest in other profitable schemes, or at least cut the pollution and destruction.

Hunters, motorcyclists, ski-doo's, jeeps, etc., must keep the pollution down, be carefree but not so obnoxious.

As far as possible, I believe that our publicly owned lands should be operated by completely or partly government-owned companies. From my observations, forestry departments have caused far less pollution and disturbing of the ecology, so they should be expanded as much as possible, operating forestry industry as much as possible.

I would like to send you people some of my experiences - I'll send one that I've sent to distant friends, written last fall, just after it happened each time, then the exaggerations later sifted out. You may reprint this letter or read it publicly. I am sending a similar letter to the Government of Canada. I hope all this will be beneficial.

Yours truly,

*Ken. Forsythe*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from (Miss) L.P. Turbayne.

#3 - 1110 - 12th Ave., S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta, T2R 0J7

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5

Dear Sirs:

Re: Bow River Basin Public Hearings, Land Use on the Eastern Slopes

This letter specifically endorses the Elbow-Sheep Wildland  
Recreation Area as proposed by the Alberta Wilderness Association.

The Willmore, White Goat and Siffleur Wildernesses are fairly remote in terms of people of Calgary and region east and south. So it does seem the Elbow-Sheep, as designated by the A.W.A., is logical for wildland use as defined by them.

Motorized vehicles, winter or summer, by their mere presence drastically alter its character and endanger its prime values for its entire biota, and also for the human users who are equipped physically and psychologically to get highest reward from it without gross intrusion.

Also, if preserved as recommended, its natural values will be there for human benefit long after extractive resources would have been depleted. The latter could be bought back by the Government or traded off for equivalent uncommitted areas. This should be possible, and essentially so if there are other plans, at present undisclosed, for widespread commercial development in the Kananaskis Valley, as would seem indicated by the current 'attack' on the road.

No new roads should be cut into the Elbow-Sheep area; present roads should be blocked to motorized use except for essential fire protection. Perhaps a reasonable amount of (natural?) fire might be permitted if the Government agrees that it starts the growth cycle over again and opens up new feed ranges for ungulates.

It is now a vital high-grade range for our diminishing wildlife, and as well contains the source watersheds for Calgary, towns and agricultural land to the east. These should both be prime consideration in deciding the future course of the Elbow-Sheep sector. It would require careful and meaningful management by qualified authorized personnel. Easy access by motorized vehicles would seem to be the chief threat to its ecology apart from actual resource extraction.

You might find interesting some passages in the enclosed Digest for March 1973, of the Calgary Zoological Society, re the life history of the bighorn sheep, as it points out how vulnerable they are in some respects to human interference in their habitat.

My personal experience of the Elbow-Sheep area is limited to foot travel in a few places immediately abutting the Kananaskis road, especially, over more than ten years, in the spectacular areas on either side of the Highwood Pass. Those places, and indeed the entire road from Seebe to the Pass, have a special meaning for me,--scenically, botanically and, through a knowledgeable friend, geologically, and for another very personal family reason.

The very real possibility of coal strip mining there is for me intolerable; never mind what is at present being perpetrated and proposed on that road. I was never against upgrading it to reasonable and safer standard: standard similar to the present 1A highway would be excellent for it. The current operation from Seebe is merely obscene!

I am now a senior citizen and can no longer look forward to backpacking excursions beyond the lunch-sweater-binoculars-etc. day. Most earlier years (of happy memory!) were in Banff and Yoho Parks. I still hope to enjoy trips to the Pass and into the cirque in Mount Rae when opportunity offers, especially when the glacier lilies are in bloom. They should be coming up through the snow just about now! Who is to say that they are not a valid and a more permanent resource for the spirit of man than a non-renewable ton of coal? Particularly when the coal is available elsewhere.... The road is unique, with few exceptions as far as I know, where it is possible for those with interested eyes to drive and see the marvellous alpine vegetation by the roadside or within a few feet. At least it is unique to the Calgary region, and to widen the road as planned would be sheer desecration. It would be a most happy boundary to a wildland recreation area in its present width with upgrading.

I attended the Calgary hearings throughout, except one morning when I composed a short, very general written submission, and attended one day of the Canmore hearings. I agree with one speaker at Calgary: his remarks included an opposite view to many others who parroted, in effect, that all places should be made available to the "aged and handicapped". He spoke with full realization that he himself will one day be in that situation - as who of us will not!

But if that concept were to prevail, we would have a paved road up every mountain valley in the Rockies! And you must be aware that there are countless people with "engineering minds" who would think that was splendid! Such have little or no awareness of the mental, physical and spiritual rewards attendant upon a foot or horse journey to or through places of quiet, apart, and still relatively unmolested by the rough hand of man. I myself get a real lift just knowing they are there! However, conversely, through education and their real need, more and

more people are becoming aware that we require such spaces, which are obviously becoming harder and harder to preserve at all from 20th century technological onslaught.

These current hearings themselves are an indication that we have arrived at some sort of plateau where extremely critical and difficult decisions must be made as to which way we are to take for ourselves and for those who will follow us. I ask you to just compare the submissions of the Alberta Wilderness Association for the Elbow-Sheep Wildland Recreation Area with the other massive commercial projections for the Bow River Corridor. "Recreation" is indeed a word of many interpretations!

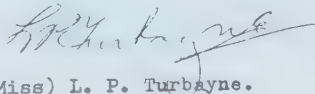
Since this is the 20th century, there is a place for the facility-oriented centre, but increasingly more so a need for true quiet wildland spaces. If we make a wrong decision now, the song "You Don't Know What You've Got until It's Gone" may have a lot more meaning for a lot more people years hence.

Perhaps we should really be listening to the people who tell us that our Canadian wilderness is fast becoming unique in the global view and could well in foreseeable future be our most valuable resource. Couldn't we, for once, take the long view?

The officials of the Authority and their staff are to be congratulated on sustaining their courtesy and cool so valiantly through exhausting days.

I appreciate the fact of these hearings and the opportunity to put in my word. Thank you.

Sincerely,



(Miss) L. P. Turbayne.



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Toivo Anderson.

Three Hills, Alberta  
June 4, 1973.

Dr. Allan Warrack,  
Legislative Buildings,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Dr. Warrack:

Re: Ya-Ha-Tinda Development

As I am unable to attend hearings regarding this matter, I am writing you and hope you will see that it reaches the right department and person directly concerned.

As a strong supporter of conservation of wildlife and preservation of natural forest and wilderness areas, I, on behalf of the Trochu Rifle and Pistol Association and for myself strongly urge the Government to take a stand against any development such as the construction of hotels and dormitories etc. in the Ya-Ha-Tinda valley, because this valley is a sheltered area from elements, more or less, and has, because of plentiful feed, been the wintering ground for all game, such as elk and deer that go to it there from the Park. These game animals now have their "backs to the wall" so to speak, and what would happen to them if Mr. Unger's plans were permitted to go through? He tried it before and the previous government did not permit it.

Again I hope you will consider this question and see it as we do that have hunted and camped there.

Thanking you, I remain

*Toivo Anderson*



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Mrs. Eleanor Parker

P.O. Box 34,  
Three Hills, Alberta.  
May 31, 1973

Dr. Allan Warrack,  
Legislative Buildings,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I have been unable to attend any meeting where you were in attendance so would like to state my views as an individual concerning the Ya-Ha-Tinda project in the Bow River Forest Reserve west of Sundre.

I am very much opposed to having it turned into a ski resort area. This is the very best area for trail riding and camping within easy reach of people living in central Alberta. There are not many places left where people can completely escape the noise and hustle and bustle of modern living, even for a week.

My husband and I and family are farming people. Part of our operation includes a three-ton stock truck and saddle horses to handle cattle. These are necessities but they can also be used for pleasure such as a week at the Ya-Ha-Tinda. This is about the least expensive holiday we can have, the biggest expense being gasoline to drive the one hundred miles between there and home. With a ski resort in the heart of this, which includes hotels, motels and fast traffic, the area would be ruined.

A hydro dam and paved highway were built on the Kootenay Plains bringing with them the fast pace of modern living.

Skiing is done in winter so why would another area less suitable for riding (muskeg) not be satisfactory?

My plea is this: please leave this area as it is - unspoiled and

open to campers who may bring in their own horses. This includes individuals as well as riding clubs.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) *Eleanor Parker*

Mrs. Eleanor Parker

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Gerald Gustavson.

June 14, 1973

Dear Sirs:

I am a farmer primarily but I am also the holder of a class A Guides License and also I have done a bit of logging in the area west of Rocky Mountain House. I think I have a stake in what happens in the forest reserve as part of my livelihood is derived there.

First let me state that I think one of the biggest attractions and reasons for going out there is because you can still find places where you can go for hours and even days without seeing another person. I know that when I go for a holiday, I want to get away from people. I enjoy solitude and as you are no doubt aware that is something that is getting harder and harder to find. I also know that there are thousands of other people like me. Large commercial developments and the hordes of people they attract would destroy this.

This \$110,000,000 development planned for the Bighorn Dam area is one that I am strongly opposed to. I have figured that it would take an average of 250 people per day each spending \$100.00 per day to pay the interest alone (at 8%). I have no idea how many more it would take to pay salaries, expenses and profit but I imagine it would be quite a few. I cannot see any sense in attracting hordes of people to an area like this. The kind of people that these developments would attract are not people who are interested in wilderness. All it is to them is a nice place to come and spend money and Lord knows there are thousands of places like this in every large city and in our National Parks. The 60 square mile development planned for the area west of Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch in my estimation is similar. I wonder what would

happen to the estimated 1,500 head of elk that winter in the area if there were hundreds of snowmobiles and skiers running helter-skelter through the bush. I hope the commission sees fit to discourage all developments of the nature. Please leave people like me an area, a very large area, where we can hunt and fish without meeting a tourist or skidoo behind every bush. I think we should have some development of the east slopes, but that it should be very limited and only allowed along the four existing highways that go through the east slopes. There should be absolutely no commercial development along the forestry roads, nor should they be paved. Any development along the corridors should be limited to a very few gas stations and maybe a small motel or two at Abraham Lake. I can see the need for more campsites along these corridors but if they are going to provide any services the people that use them should pay for them.

When it comes to the subject of strip mining I can see no earthly reason for selling our mountains for 10¢ per ton. All that happens is that they create an ungodly mess that will take hundreds of years to clean up and the profits go to some large foreign concern - this I don't like.

Oil exploration is something that I think we will probably have to live with; if it is done properly the damage is minimal but done improperly it creates an awful mess. I don't think any oil exploration should be done in the alpine region. The mess there is something terrific. Logging operations again if carried out properly can actually be beneficial by creating feeding areas for the game by removing mature stands of timber and allowing new growth and grass to grow. The system now of taking small blocks in a checkerboard pattern is very good.

I am opposed to the Clearwater Park idea, as far as I can see all it would accomplish is to outlaw outdoor hunting in a very large area. What would happen then is that the hunters would concentrate in other

areas creating more problems. I can see the day when we will possibly have to outlaw hunting along the east-west access highways and possibly the forestry roads. A "no hunting" ban one-half mile on either side of these roads would not hinder the true hunter as he gets off the road to hunt anyway, but it would put a crimp in the road hunters and mutts who drive up and down the road all day and shoot anything that moves.

Cattle grazing in the forestry is something that I don't like either. Cattle eat the same food as elk and what happens then is the elk move higher and take over the sheep pasture. This creates a hardship on the sheep as they have nowhere else to go. I am sure that this is one of the major reasons for the decline in sheep population. I would imagine that a \$400.00 cow would eat the same amount of food as at least one or maybe even two elk. As a guide, elk are worth considerably more to me. We usually take a party of four hunters per trip. Maybe we are not very good guides because we only average about two elk or moose per trip.

License paid by four hunters	\$ 412.00
Fees paid to me (10 day trip, four men)	2,000.00
Gas, motels, gifts, liquor, miscellaneous (four men)	<u>400.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,812.00

Divide the \$2,800 by the two animals taken and you come up with \$1,400.00 per animal; this is considerably more than the \$400.00 cow.

Our hunting in this province has got some terrific possibilities, let's not destroy all the habitat with commercial development.

I have rambled long enough. I think from this you can see I am concerned with what happens to our west country. Please let us keep our west country in as natural a state as possible. I am sure that future generations will thank us for it.

Sincerely yours,

*Errol Kurtson*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Katheryn Law Gardner.

R.R. 1,  
Nanton, Alta.  
July 9, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I sincerely submit the following opinions on land and resource use in our province.

The term "land use" would indicate an agrarian-oriented policy, not political expedience. Land between the foothills and Highway No. 2 is highly productive and needed to grow food. A land-use survey could easily be overwhelmed by preponderant numbers of urban citizens who think of land only in terms of a summer week-end playground, or a snow-mobile racetrack. Surely Joe Hippie should not look at a productive ranch and carry some weight in a decision that it would make a good park for his barbecue or a place for his commune!

There seems a tendency to ignore agriculture. The recreationist would not especially enjoy his recreation (on an empty stomach) if he takes over too much cattle-producing land and prime farm land. A scarcity of cattle has put up beef prices, and yet there is little concept that the pressures on land from the urbanist and the propaganda from others to eliminate cattle from more and more areas, are contributing factors in beef scarcity.

Re all-terrain vehicles, tote-goats, motorcycles, etc.: One might wonder what using grassy hillsides for a speedway or a vehicle test has to do with being a good custodian of the land! This mania for

"tearing up", in the process of "tearing over", some lovely land just to reach another spot of unspoiled beauty, perhaps there to leave some bottles or cans, then "tear" up more turf and "tear" on--is this so commendable that it is to be encouraged as "land use"! This sort of thing is against all the rules of agrarian use. This neither allows growth nor time for man to appreciate growth. For speed-artists, etc, why not specified trails maintained by those enjoying them, as well as in specified areas?

In connection with the above remarks, wildlife cannot mate and propagate normally when harassed by this noisy machinery which can penetrate most of the areas of space normal to them in which to move about! Too many access roads and seismic trails contribute to keeping the animals stirred up and on the move. The increase of indiscriminate target shooting is no help in this regard either. The echoes of a volley of gun-reports is alarming, as well as confusing as to source. Target shooting in remote areas, accompanied by too much liquor, should come under some restriction for the safety of all concerned.

Over and above the urgent need for wilderness areas to preserve some of our present environment, more game wardens and rangers put back in the forest reserves are needed to protect wildlife. The presence of a resident forest ranger residing in his area, with full authority over game control restored to him, is badly needed. Centralized in towns, forestry officers are out of their districts driving to and fro most of their time by necessity of distance involved.

Over past years, before centralization of forest rangers, they have put out fires, large and small, on the spot, preventing devastation of entire countrysides. Even those in favour of so-called "controlled" burning admit that it must not be "too hot a fire", resulting in destroyed ground humus, topsoil blown off or eroded; underground burning of roots and humus which causes pitting, underground caverns, cave-ins, etc."



There are not sufficient preventative measures enforced to prevent fire devastation caused by smokers and campfires, to allow even more unsupervised penetration by the public into the foothills and mountains.

Please don't allow villages to start up to eventually become small cities in our mountains! Why not send the coal strip miners up to rescue Grande Cache instead of allowing strip mine towns and development in the valley a few miles south of Kananaskis! Government has put Albertans into much debt over Grande Cache; now it is proposed that we pay for more facilities to export our non-renewable resource of coal from the Isolation Ridge area, for which we will receive a mere pittance!

On the contrary, the government through firm regulations of the Lands and Forests Department, manage the renewable resources of grazing so that most ranchers use the grazing resource wisely and carefully. Grass, carefully managed and harvested by cattle, becomes part of a fire protection policy, which becomes evident to anyone who has seen a devastating fire start and quickly gain ground in an accumulation of old dead grass bottom. If people feel that they must penetrate every nook and cranny of foothills and mountains, they must accept some of the obligations which accompany privilege, for instance, accept grazing to mitigate fire hazard, forest rangers to guard environment, and some restriction of access.

There is much misinformation circulated regarding cattle competing with wildlife. In this extensive area there were scarcely any big game for many years after the 1910 fire until some cover was re-stored. Cattle were already established, and this factor did not prevent the elk from moving in and rapidly increasing until very recently curtailed by heavy hunting, maiming, disturbing and harassing by humans. Elk move into ranching pastures whenever they like, they don't recognize a forestry boundary nor distinguish between lease and freehold. Moose and deer range as freely.



Tax on lease is the same as on freehold, but added to the cost of lease is a yearly rental to the provincial government. Thus, the renewable resource, from grazing of lease and forestry, brings a considerable sum to government each year. If ranchers are expected to welcome wildlife on their own lands, is there not, conversely, a point to acknowledge, that controlled numbers of cattle should harvest excess grass on Crown land since they pay well for the same? It should be also brought out that government controls total numbers of cattle on any ranch using lease land, and in this way the renewable resource is maintained as a profitable contribution to every Alberta taxpayer.

There is more damage to fish by erosion from roads and road building and from seismic trails than from normal cattle grazing. How many innumerable seismic crossings to creeks are there? Most of these seismic crossings in small creeks are muddy brush-fills, packed by heavy equipment, and fish cannot penetrate them. This is too true where the soil is loam and not gravelly. Cattle do not go straight up and down a fill, cutting real gully-washes, like motorcycles, skidoos, tote-goats, A.T.V.'s and seismic trails do.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Law Gardner

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of letter from Ronda Trimble.

Caroline, Alta.

Environmental Conservation Authority

Dear Sir:

I am a student of the Caroline school. I can remember about eight years ago which would make me six years old, when I could go swimming, fishing and drink almost any water from any streams around here. Now eight years later, I go fishing and have to put up with the stench of barnyard wastes along the riverbanks. I used to be able to see hooks, fish and a shadow of myself in the creeks. Now all I can see is pollution and a dirty brown river. You may say I'm just a kid, what's it to me? It's a lot to me. I love the outdoors, the wilderness in its natural state. I want my children and their children to be able to say that they have seen and can see the beauty of nature, not a junk yard or floating garbage. You can see that anywhere without going further west.

Now the big thing is these youth hostels; what we're doing is inviting people to use everything we have left of our country - our clean country. Remember wherever people go garbage follows.

Another thing is that you hop in your car and head west for a quiet, peaceful day, enjoying the fresh air, privacy and wilderness. To be able to get that far west you would have to have wings, because now there are cattle and roads everywhere you look. The people have caused these problems and it will have to be the people who cure this problem too.

I don't think it's fun to go camping and find yourself with twenty-five other people and fourteen cows and fertilization along with

the cows. Just what kind of fun is that? Maybe some people enjoy it. Not me or my future generation. I feel that our wilderness should be what the word means. Not a spread-out city or farm yard. I want my family to enjoy the good things in life. And after all the best things in life are the natural things, not man-made things.

It leaves me breathless when I can smell fresh air and see a clean, clear and isolated area which man hasn't left his trademark on. On the other hand it leaves me sick when I look at creeks and rivers I used to swim in, so polluted that fish can't live in.

I am a nature lover and very concerned!

Yours truly,

*Ronda Trimble*  
(Grade 11 student)

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Mrs. Janet Trimble

CAROLINE, Alberta.

Box 209,

12 June, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,

9912 - 107th Street,

EDMONTON, Alberta.

To Whom This May Concern:

I am a resident of the west Caroline area and I have a few things to say about conservation in our west country.

My main concern is with water pollution in the Clearwater Forest Reserve.

When our 16 year old child was small we used to drive west on the trunk road several times a year. At that time we could stop at every stream for a drink of clear mountain water and a picnic. Now, due to the pollution of cattle we have to take with us or stop at a well.

At nearly every bridge there is a real mess caused by the cattle laying and walking the banks of the creeks down into the water. Also there is so much manure around it isn't fit to walk around to find a picnic spot. I can't understand why these cattle are allowed into our beautiful mountain area to mess up the streams and eat all of the elk's winter range. Why?

When the trunk road was first put through I can remember counting over 100 head of elk on the Seven Mile flats. If these cattle were removed I'm sure we'd see elk, moose and deer back out on the flats.

This area west should be left as it is, with no further development than there is. If people want a commercialized park, let them go to Banff or Jasper. We of the west country want our area left alone.

I believe hunting should be allowed as always, as there are hundreds of people from nearby cities and the country who have no other recreation so close at hand.

The hunters do not hurt the game population as long as there is sufficient game management.

I believe that about 60 or 70 per cent of our mountains are parks or wilderness areas now. Do we really need more? As far as I'm concerned I'd like to see the Clearwater Forest Reserve left as is.

Yours truly  
 Mrs. Jack Leslie  
 (Housewife)

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from Roy Trimble.

Caroline, Alta.  
June 12, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority

Dear Sir:

As a long-time resident of the west country, I would not be in favour of any further development of tourist facilities in the Clearwater Forest Reserve. Except possibly on the David Thompson Highway. Also I would not like to see any further exploration for oil and coal in the sub-alpine region. They have already left enough scars on the west country. I would also like to see the cattle moved out of the mountains, specifically the ones on "Seven-Mile", "Cut-Off Creek" and "Elk Creek". The great majority of people have been against the cattle being in there since the day they arrived. There are only three or four cattlemen running cattle in there. I can't see why they can't be moved somewhere else, and let the wildlife have their winter range back.

In 1955, I worked on the Trunk Road; it was not uncommon to count four to five hundred head of elk along Elk Creek and Seven-Mile Flat area, in the months of January and February.

I worked the complete winter of 1965 in the same area and never saw one elk all winter.

We are told by range management and government officials that the cattle are only allowed to take 50% of the grass, I would make this comparison - you buy a steak dinner and let me eat off your plate first, I can tell you you'll be looking at a few spuds I mulled through and no steak.

Furthermore, the cattle have made a hell of a mess out of the streams. the erosion along these creek banks this spring was an atrocity. Possibly they should make a restricted area along both sides of the Forestry Trunk Road a mile or two wide.

I am definitely not in favour of a park, as 78% of our alpine area in Alberta is parks. I feel that there should be some area left for hunting.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roy Trimble". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Roy Trimble".

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from J.C. Weiss.

9341 - 151 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
June 10, 1973

Dear Sir:

Everyone agrees that this province needs more recreation facilities. Everyone also agrees that this province needs to retain its natural wilderness. What people cannot agree upon is a formula to combine both into one. It is getting more common that family groups and business groups are heading to our recreation areas for get-togethers, reunions and business meetings.

The following is my interpretation of what the formula might be. I agree that I may have missed some vital points and maybe included some unnecessary ones but if big business wishes to go into the recreation field then cost and high monetary gains shall have to be sacrificed for the wishes of the Alberta people.

These are my suggested stipulations:

- All land to be used by facility shall be leased from the government on a short-term renewable basis.
- The controlling company shall be an all-Canadian Company. Preferably an Alberta Company. If an American can make money on a project like this, so can a Canadian.
- No building to be taller than the height of the surrounding trees and a minimum of trees and bush to be cut. I suggest a design similar to Lethbridge college where the buildings blend with the landscape.
- All power, telephone and gas lines to be underground and the area reseeded to grass.



- Government approved sewage system to accommodate all facilities plus numerous cabins.
- Water treatment facilities for all.
- Minimum use of roads. All buildings designed as to be in walking distance of one another.
- Cycle, foot, snowshoe, and ski paths throughout complex.
- Total ban on snowmobile and motorcycles in area. Transportation may be provided by an electric golf cart type of machine for moving people and supplies.
- Condominium housing to accommodate a minimum of four people per unit and to be rented at a nominal rate so that more Albertans are able to enjoy facilities without going into debt.
- One parking area, no streets as we know them in Banff and Jasper. If people wish to get around they can walk, cycle or take an electric cart.
- One service area in parking lot for car service and regulations imposed on this company to prevent inflated prices for gas, oil and service.
- Trailer court with water, sewage and electrical facilities and a maximum time limit of two weeks stay or penalty imposed for extra time.
- Land available on sale or long-term lease program to build private cabins with the following stipulations:
  - Access only from rear service road. (i.e. no front street, just walkways, example Suffield, Alberta).
  - Cabin designed to blend with landscape. Design to be approved by governing body.
  - No bright colors, natural colors used to blend in with surroundings.
  - Indoor plumbing tied to complex's sewage system at a small charge.
  - Fine imposed or lease revoked if cabin is allowed to deteriorate.
- If near a lake beach facilities to be provided with lifeguards.

- Boat launch facilities and parking area with marina area available at small charge.
- One service area where boats may obtain gas. This must contain facilities where self-contained boats may empty their holding tanks.
- Golf course - to be designed around natural terrain making extensive use of already cleared rights-of-way
- Ski hill - make use of cleared rights-of-way

-Ski lift to be started in townsite enabling people to ski to their accommodation. This also eliminates extra parking required at base of ski hill.

-Several small chalets on ski hill where skiers could rest and/or eat and also provide shelter if a storm occurred. These chalets could be leased in the summer as half-way houses for hikers.

-All ski hills to be grossed and could be leased to cattle-men in the summer as grazing areas.

-The general appearance of the area should be neat and conservative. No flashing neon signs or billboards hanging from buildings. Perhaps a scale model of area set up in various places to show what is available for facilities would serve this purpose.

These are my ideas on such facilities. It may be described as an architect's nightmare but I feel that the people of this province, who love its natural beauty, have a right to retain it in their recreation facilities no matter what the cost

Yours truly,



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: John Johnsen

John Johnsen,  
SPRUCE VIEW, Alberta.  
TOM 1V0.  
May 28, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5.

Dear Sirs:

It seems we have reached a point in Alberta's development where we must stop and consider how and when we shall use our remaining natural resources.

Natural resources is a very broad term; those things which it includes, renewable and non-renewable, make up a large part of Alberta. Coal, timber, oil and gas, wildlife, water, and recreation are probably just a few of them. Therefore if Alberta is to enjoy in the future the prosperity it has known in the past, very definite legislation (meaning an act passed by the legislative assembly) must come into being, protecting these resources.

It seems that in the past (it has occurred in the not-too-distant past) that there has been conflict between different departments in our government; one department gives the go ahead on certain projects (some of these to take place in the East Slopes of the Rockies) and another department that should be concerned with these projects has no knowledge of what is happening. The Ministers that head these departments are of the same political party so why can't they work together for the common good of the people who elected them.

If we take a look at the value of different resources in the East Slopes, which ones are worth more to the people of Alberta in long-term use? Is it coal sold to the Japanese for small fees which put minimal amounts of instant cash into the coffers of the government, or is it the clean water, recreation, and wildlife for the people to enjoy for many generations to come? I'm sure the answer is quite obvious to both you and me.

Carrying this point a little further, what kind of recreation do we want in these areas? Is it ski resorts and large commercial recreation areas we want or is it the quiet and serene down-to-earth outdoor style enjoyment such as camping (and I mean camping), fishing, hunting etc.? The latter I am sure is what every rural and city dweller really craves.

The following is a list of items which legislation should provide for and insure that they are carried out:

- The prime use of the East Slopes should be for clean water and quality recreation compatible with nature.
- Better land administration. An act should be set up to provide for definite development in this area so that conflict does not occur.
- Campgrounds must be kept under government control; there must be no private development on crown land.
- Keep development only to the main East-West corridors (David Thomson, Calgary-Banff, Jasper-Edmonton highways). Let's try and keep development off the trunk roads. I realize we can not close out mining and oil exploration completely but let's keep these operations along with their railroads to the main East-West corridors.
- Once development occurs it is impossible to stop it so let's slow down and find the right and least hazardous way of developing and refining natural resources. Instead of building gas plants in these areas let's use pipelines to carry the crude to our settlements for refinement.

- And tell me now, isn't it kind of stupid to pay subsidies to companies to take out our natural resources. Let's stop this, these resources are worth money.
- For the minimal amount of beef raised on the grass in this area, wouldn't it be better to let the elk have it? Farmers can raise beef more efficiently than that.

In conclusion then let's get a very definite plan for this area, one that will benefit all the people in Alberta whether they be rich or poor, young or old. Furthermore let's try and have a little more co-operation in government and a little less name building and glory seeking by certain Ministers.

Lets also remember that a lot of people in Alberta don't know what is involved concerning these East Slope hearings, but if each one were questioned I am sure the majority would wish for preservation of this great area we have to the West of us. And it's these people who elected the present government to represent them in these matters.

*Sincerely yours,  
John Johnson*

P.S. Let's hope these hearings aren't just an exercise in politics.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Thelma M. Williams & B. E. Olson

May 25, 1973.

Dear Sirs:

In regards to the proposed Bow Forest Wilderness Area we feel that making this a wilderness or wildland area will be catering to a very small minority of people. As for the littering problem, if people are inclined to be this way it doesn't matter what sport they participate in. We strongly feel that the area should be left as is for everyone to enjoy.

*Thelma M. Williams*  
*B. E. Olson*

11123 Sacramento Dr., S.W.,  
CALGARY, Alberta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from James T. Redmond

Dr. Trost  
Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107 Street  
Edmonton

Dear Sir:

In view of the subjects under consideration concerning Folding Mountain area in particular, that I have a very good knowledge of, I would like you to consider some of my facts as I know them.

We owned and operated the 'Circle M Guest Ranch' located at the foot of Folding Mountain for seven years and I took several pack trips back to the Mystery Lake area after I had sold the ranch and was located at Pochontas Bungalows.

We took daily rides from the ranch to the highest point on Folding Mountain, and packhorse trips of a week's length further back by Mystery Lake. I gave a naturalist lecture as we went along as I have loved and studied flowers. In the books I have, and I have the leading ones, every flower is represented somewhere in the area in abundance. Many of the rare flowers are within a few minutes walk of the highway if you know the way. Some are as far back as Mystery Lake.

Since retiring I spend two months each summer in Jasper Park with my horses on the back trails. I have yet to find an area that compares with the Folding Mountain area for profusion of all the flowers in the mountain flower books.

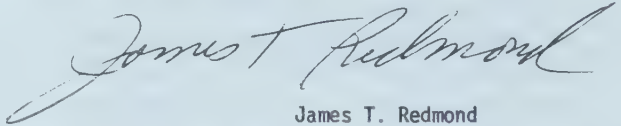
The Folding Mountain area is an uninjured area so far; it is a small spot of true wilderness and should not be improved or mined or logged. There are many coal deposits without wrecking the last small pocket of natural wilderness that should be kept for our descendants.

The developing of a ski hill is ridiculous as it will fail financially because, having lived nine years there, I know the face of the mountain is bare of snow most of the time. This proposal must be proposed by someone who does not know the facts of nature there. I would not invest a cent as I would know it would fail. I have no financial interest in the area now, but when I did have I had been contacting the former government for years about the preservation of the area as I know of nothing like it anywhere in the province accessible to the public. I was seeking and getting assistance from Wm. Switzer at the time of his death.

During the winter months I have read several books on watersheds in the public library, and it is obvious that no damage should be done to the ground or the trees.

I have a lifetime background of outdoor life and study. I am not against development in many areas, but this small area is very rare now and not replaceable. Further accommodation for guests at the guest ranch would be good but industrial, mining or extensive tourist facilities would be damaging. Chair lifts and such would only duplicate other areas and would hurt the natural area where it was built.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James T. Redmond". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

James T. Redmond



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Mervin L. Matson

417-11 Ave. N.E.  
Calgary  
28 June, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107 St.  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 1G5

Gentlemen:

Please consider my opinions, summarized below, in your deliberations on land use on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

1. This land is a precious resource as is - any change to it by our hand, or by our permission, must come only after consideration of this fact.

2. Any use of this land that alters it is not as good, on this score, as one that does not alter it. The more alteration, the more suspect the use.

3. I recognize the fact that by restricting commercial development of these lands, economic gain for Alberta may be foregone, and I am willing to accept this.

4. Commercial use of the land, intensity, extent and number of operations, should be restricted by law. The law must be very explicitly quantitative. Only in this way can the pressure of specific interest be contained by authorities working for the general interest. It is just not good enough to have only general standards and guidelines for exploitation - they are subject to wide interpretation and are too easily beat, excepted, changed and circumvented. If tough legislation causes us to miss opportunities, it will also prevent us from making mistakes. Anyway, if it's a good idea now, it may well be a great idea later, as lands like these become (relative to population, at least) more and more

scarce. Undevelopment may be investment in the future general interest.

5. All industrial development should be contracted with government on land leased for the minimum viable time span. The contract should be explicit on what environmental damage or perturbation will be permitted, over what length of time, procedures for inspection by authorities and repairs by developers, and penalties for contract breaking.

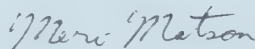
6. Areas currently designated as "wilderness" are much too small.

7. Many arguments for development titled "multiple land use" are dangerous. If any one of the uses in the package is unacceptable, the package must be rejected.

8. I think that the argument for development, "this creates jobs for Albertans", is very weak. Experience with make-work projects shows them to be full of false economy. If it's a good proposition it will produce good jobs; if it needs the argument above to prop it up, the jobs will be shaky at best.

9. Use of the land for motorized recreation should be strictly limited to minimal parcels of land. The vehicles are land-wrecking and nerve-wracking. It is a great pity that we have permitted them to become entrenched and now cannot ban them completely. We need better controls on their use to prevent some of the worst aspects of our cities from spreading to our forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merv Matson".

Mervin L. Matson

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Robert G. Miskey

13607 - 86 Avenue,  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
T5R 4A8.

June 30th, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107th Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
T5K 1G5.

Dear Sirs:

I would like to voice my opinion on land use and resource development in the Alberta Eastern Slopes. Because of this region's aesthetic value I feel that conservation of the area in its natural state should be of main concern. I would like to see the areas lying on the borders of our national parks become wilderness reserves. This would provide a chain of parkland stretching from the interior of British Columbia into the interior of Alberta. In particular I would also like to see the Willmore, Siffleur, White Goat and Ghost River areas keep their status as wilderness reserves. In addition, I wouldn't like to see any form of commercial recreation in our forest reserves, except restricted developments outside of national park entrances which would serve to relieve pressure on our national parks, e.g. Canmore development. I feel that wilderness areas are an important asset to Alberta and that some attempt should be made to preserve some of it in its completely undisturbed state. Eventually it would come under the use of mountain climbers, backpackers, cross-country skiers, etc., but these are the people that have reverence and great respect for the area they visit.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

*Robert G. Miskey*

Robert G. Miskey.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Mrs. Henrietta Kroetch

Devon, Alberta,  
June 29, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107th Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

We have often vacationed in the Rocky Mountain House area,  
and enjoyed its wilderness aspect so much that we would like to add  
our voice to those who feel that the area should be left as is, with-  
out commercial development.

Yours very truly,

*Mrs. Henrietta Kroetch*

cc: File

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Ethel Coates

Devon, Alberta,  
June 28, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

When you are considering the Eastern Slopes development, I would like to suggest that strict government control be placed on all lumbering activity, with a ban on all strip mining operations, which are destroying our source of clean water.

Since it is a wilderness area, please keep it as such, and don't allow commercial development other than right around the towns already established there.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

*Ethel Coates*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from R. L. Holman

Devon, Alberta.  
June 26, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107th Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

First, let me commend the idea of the Environment Planning Commission in their effort to find out what the majority of Albertans would like for the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies.

My feeling is that there should be a ban on strip mining in this area. Also, I feel that this land should be developed for recreational purposes only, with easily available service facilities.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. L. Holman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R. L." being more prominent and the last name "Holman" written in a flowing script.

cc: File

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Peter Harty

Devon, Alberta.  
June 26, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I believe that strip mining as well as oil and gas exploration should be stopped in the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

It would be my suggestion that the Government should put a hard-surfaced road through the foothills from Grande Prairie to Waterton Lakes, with access roads to campgrounds and fishing spots. This road should have adequate service facilities every fifty miles.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Harty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

cc: File

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from D. Allen

R. R. 1,  
Sylvan Lake, Alberta.  
May 23, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

I am a P.Ed. 20 student of the Spruce View School. I would just like to say, I think the east slope of the Rockies should be left the way it is, for the people who like to go hiking out there in the mountains, and we don't want to be bothered by cars and motels all over the place.

If it is opened up to the public the elk, moose, goats and sheep will be forced to move back into the higher ground and there is not enough food back there for them all to live on, so their numbers will decrease. Such animals as bears would probably move to some other place so as to get away from all the people and then it would not be the same without them.

Yours truly,

*David Allen.*

David Allen.



1341  
LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from E. Shannon

June 1, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
1911-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir:

In answer to a recent publication in the Red Deer Advocate (Farm Views and Shopper, Wednesday, May 9, 1973) concerning the building of a resort area west of the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch--I say NO! There are already enough resort areas ruining the little bit of wilderness we have left and driving the wildlife back up into the mountains or other areas where there is hardly any food available.

Personally, I feel Mr. Unger was talking through his hat when he said that the open prairie type of valley floor would be basically unharmed by this type of resort being put in. I have seen evidence of this myself. Our physical education class camped out west for three and a half days in a secluded area and when we left the land we had camped on was virtually useless for wildlife to feed on. This was not because we were a group of hellions either, it was simply because most of the mountainous soil is of the podzolic nature and cannot take any type of roughness, even walking on it, without dying off.

I have a question. Why do they need another resort area so close to others? From one point Banff is only thirty-five miles away. People pollute Banff as it is; having another resort area would only mean more pollution. Some people just don't care how much garbage they throw around!

Sure people like to take holidays! But what is a holiday if all you see are billboards, gas stations, rubbish and concrete? Some of us would like to see elk, moose, mountain sheep, and other animals that will be driven back into the mountains, until there is no other place for them except in the zoo!

Sincerely,

Elaine Shannon  
Box 2201, R.R. No. 1  
Innisfail, Alberta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from P. J. Anderson

Markerville, Alta.  
June 8, 1973.

Dear Sirs;

I am writing on behalf of "The Markerville Snow Drifters"  
Snowmobile Club.

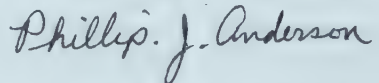
We feel that "existing Crown lands" should be left open to  
everyone as multi-recreational areas. We are against a ban on motorized  
vehicles in the wilderness areas.

We are also against any resource development in the prime rec-  
reational areas, except in the event of them completely restoring the  
area after development.

We hope you'll take these viewpoints seriously and keep them  
in mind at the public hearings starting June 11.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip J. Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Phillip J. Anderson  
(Pres.) Markerville Snow Drifters  
Markerville, Alta.  
TOM lMO

1343

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from K. Dolphin

June 7, 1973  
R. R. #1, Innisfail  
Alberta, Canada

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107 Street  
Edmonton

Gentlemen:

I feel that we should think twice before developing the Eastern Slopes and going in a way in which there is no turning back.

One drastic result of this development is the destruction of this area's scenic beauty; to others it is a challenge, a challenge to climb to the top, where no one has yet been. To wildlife, like the mountain goat, the mountains are their home. These animals used to be more scattered within a larger region. Give them a break!! Right now, the main food of the sheep is the extremely frail growth existing on mountainsides. Their only setback is their food supply. They have been pushed up against the wall.

Please realize the damage which is in store for Alberta's environment, should mining start here in the mountains.

Yours sincerely,

*Kevin Dolphin*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: H.M. Rhodes.

Sirs:

As a resident of the area adjacent to the eastern slopes which contain the drainage systems of the Red Deer, Clearwater and North Saskatchewan Rivers, I welcome this opportunity to make my feelings known as the future of this area is being considered.

First of all may I say that I believe that an area such as this provides recreation, and has so many aesthetic values and most important of all is a source of clean water that flows across three provinces and upon which the well-being of so much of the human and wildlife populations of Western Canada depends, that it must receive most considerate attention very soon.

There must be a policy established that will stand firm at least for the foreseeable future. This policy should contain the following principles of management administered by at least two departments of government, namely the Department of Lands and Forests and the Department of the Environment.

The grazing of domestic stock in the forest reserves should be gradually phased out and on critical winter game ranges and in areas where fish and game habitat is being damaged, the grazing of cattle should be discontinued immediately.

The development of people accommodations and service centres should certainly be restricted and confined to main access routes that already are developed, except possibly the addition of a few simple campground facilities. The population centres which are adjacent to and well within reasonable travelling distance of the areas in question could well provide services needed.

The harvesting of renewable resources should only be done in a systematic way and one which will create the very minimum of damage and disturbance to the environment and will assure the streams and

watercourses are not damaged in the process. The extracting of minerals and other non-renewable resources should be prohibited in the mountainous areas except east of the first range, and then only allowed near existing transport routes.

We must avoid the concentration of people, and we must not allow industry to monopolize the last remaining attractive semi-wilderness area we have in our province and which is available quite readily to so many Albertans who love and cherish the Great Outdoors.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*H.M. Rhodes*

H.M. RHODES  
R.R. #1, INNISFAIL, ALBERTA

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from G. E. Lawrence

#2  
Red Deer, Alberta  
April 5, 1973

Environment Authority  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sir:

The preservation of wilderness areas is no longer a controversial subject. A lasting memorial to man, is the planting of trees.

Vivid in memory, is the whine of saw mills in the Red Deer valley. Timber stands, and grass cover, vital to water sheds and healthy streams, have receded more than 60 miles to the west of Rocky Mountain House.

What better memorial to the Lougheed Government than the Clear-water area preserved as a provincial park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. E. (Pat) Lawrence", is written over a horizontal line.

G. E. (Pat) Lawrence

GEL/lw

# THE VILLAGE OF BOWDEN

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

BOWDEN, ALBERTA.

June 19, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5

Gentlemen:

Re: Land Use and Resource Development  
in the Eastern Slopes.

I have been instructed by the Council of the Village of Bowden to forward to you the following comments:

Council of the Village of Bowden strongly urge that Commercial and Industrial Development in the Eastern Slopes be kept to a minimum, and that tourist development be limited to the construction of camping facilities and basic services.

Resource development such as coal and oil extraction should be carefully policed; and regulations established to protect the environment, rigidly enforced.

Secondary industries for manufacture and processing of raw materials should be located in or near already established communities, which badly need the additional tax base that these would provide.

Council are very concerned that our water resources and natural areas be preserved for future generations, and feel that extensive Commercial expansion in the Eastern Slopes would be unjustified.

Yours truly,

*Marie Chamney*  
Mrs. Marie W Chamney  
Secretary-Treasurer.

MWC/ec

"GATEWAY TO THE PARKLAND"

1348

4818 49 Street  
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1N2  
June 8, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 107th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 1G5

Gentlemen:


I read with dismay that recreational development has been proposed for the area around the southern and eastern boundaries of the Ya-Ha Tinda Ranch (your Information Bulletin No. 4, p. 16-17, item 5).

Some of my colleagues and I have been hunting that area, Wildlife Management Units S418 and S416, for some time now and are aware that this area is a prime wintering range for Elk and to some extent Big Horn Sheep. You are probably aware that when the heavy snow deposits cover the feeding ranges in the national park that the Elk migrate east through the mountain passes of the Red Deer, Panther and Dormer rivers to this their winter range which is now proposed to be developed.

I believe that the best use that can be made of that whole area is to leave it just as it is with a relatively low population level so that it can remain to be the winter range for the Elk. Hunting, fishing, wilderness tenting, and hiking are compatible with this area as far as recreation is concerned. These recreations do not need any further development. However, unrestricted snowmobiling, camper and trailer parks, ski lifts and runs, lodges and the associated land clearance and roadbuilding are not compatible with this area.

Please do use your authority to conserve the environment.

Sincerely yours,

  
Hans Peter Knoess



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: L.E. Livingstone Family

103 Alderwood Crescent, S.E.,  
CALGARY 30, Alberta.  
May 25th, 1973.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of myself and family, I would like to express my strong opposition to the brief presented to you by the Wildlife Conservation Association. If these people are allotted the land expressed in this brief we will be denied the best recreation land in Alberta. We use these parks, the Bow River Forest Area and Ghost area, the year round as a family unit. Do you not feel as we do, that going out as a family is much better than having kids run the streets peddling dope or go out looking for such things? We go camping, fishing and hiking in the summer months as well as trail riding and in the winter time we use many of these few areas left, for snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

There are already many of our Alberta dollars going to B.C. because our recreation areas are not adequate for the amount of people that want to use them. Taking more of this land away from us is certainly not the answer to our present problem.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

*L.E. Livingstone*  
Daniel

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: Mr. & Mrs. L.E. Livingstone

L.E. Livingstone,  
103 Alderwood Crescent, S.E.,  
CALGARY, Alberta.  
T2H 1T4.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Gentlemen:

I was not able to attend the hearings on Land Use in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies but have been following the newspaper stories with interest.

I am alarmed that a small user group called the Wilderness Association are trying to gain control of large tracts of prime recreational land in our foothills for the exclusive use of hikers, hunters, and fishermen. Myself, family and many of my friends are long-time users of these areas, which we use both summer and winter for hiking, riding, fishing and snowmobiling. It is very important that this land remain accessible for all types of recreation and not fall into the hands of a small group for their exclusive use.

We are also concerned that the large commercial developments in the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes areas will become another high priced fiasco similar to the Village Lake Louise proposal and we would be very much against this type of development.

Sincerely,  
Mr. & Mrs. L.E.  
Livingstone

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Mrs. Marjorie Nelson

1620 Cayuga Drive N.W.  
Calgary T2L 0N3, Alberta  
July 7, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta

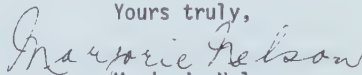
Gentlemen:

I have been watching, with growing alarm, the newspaper reports on "Land Use in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies" and am becoming increasingly concerned that what I believe is a vociferous minority group is carrying too much weight with their well-organized crusade against all motorized vehicles in large areas of recreational land in the Eastern Slopes. I was unable to attend the hearings in Calgary being out of town at the time they were held.

Our two teen-aged children, my husband and myself have snowmobiled in the Bow Valley Forest Reserve and feel sure that we have never caused one iota of damage to the environment and have never bothered anyone else in any way. We fail to see why, when we have conducted ourselves in the most considerate manner possible we should be banned from using these recreational areas because some people do not like snowmobiles. I do not like hunters and fishermen because I do not believe in killing for the sake of killing and I do not presume to tell them that because I do not care for their form of recreation they should be forbidden from indulging in it.

Should the very large areas, such as the Bow Forest Reserve, be closed to all motorized vehicles it will become a private playground of a handful of hikers, hunters and fishermen. This appears to me to be the ultimate in discrimination.

Yours truly,

  
Marjorie Nelson  
(Mrs. S. J. Nelson)

Copy to: S. A. McCrea, M.L.A.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter submitted by: Lynne Morck.

June 13, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.  
T5K 1G5

Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opinions regarding the developmental proposals on the Eastern Slopes, hearings to be held in Red Deer, June 27.

There seems to be a general feeling that the Eastern Slopes area should be opened up to recreational development. It is my feeling that this should not be done and is really not necessary. There are already many available recreation areas and campsites within this region. And these areas make up such a small portion of the available spots for people to go. I feel that if they really feel such areas are a necessity, there is so much unused land outside of the reserve that could be developed into recreation projects of the nature proposed for the Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch area. This could easily be done, and would not have adverse effects on the watershed or ecosystem. Along with this, I would like to say that I think the roads should not be improved into the area, but to keep them in the condition they are now. For one reason, once a good main road is established, the wildlife vanishes from within a long distance from the road sites.

I also feel there should be restriction on industrial and mining practices in the area, in fact to shut off all projects of this nature, as there is no way they prove beneficial to the environment.

In regards to animal pasturing in the reserve areas, I think this too should be abolished. The surface soil out in that region is very fragile, as it does not extend to a very great depth. and once cattle or horses have been pastured there, the flora is no longer suitable for game grazing, which in turn causes problems with game control and preservation.

My feeling is that the government should set aside this Eastern Slopes region, not as a park, but more of a semi-wilderness area than it is now, to prevent the uncontrolled use and stripping of the natural environment and ecological system.

*Lynne Morck*

Lynne Morck  
Spruce View, Alberta  
TOM 1VO

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from Maxine O'Riordan.

41 Springfield Avenue  
Red Deer, Alberta  
June 15, 1973

Gentlemen:

I wish to express my opinion regarding a proposal by a private developer to build a large hotel complex at the junction of the Cline River and Highway 11. I have read the Odyssey brochure and the rationale for the proposed site.

I am vehemently opposed to the concept of the Odyssey. I believe that a great majority of people in this area do not wish to become plastic people in a plastic environment. The size of the complex would plunge us into a bumper-to-bumper traffic situation to reach artificial recreation not compatible with the area. The degree of commercialization would remove it financially from the range of working people and young families. Let's not cater any more to the person who rushes down a paved highway at 80 mph, looks around the gift shops a bit and rushes off in a restless search for fulfillment. Most people now yearn for the therapeutic values of nature, to photograph a precious glimpse of natural beauty, to camp among others in a simply appointed spot.

The Odyssey would concentrate too many people in one spot, which would be detrimental to animal life and vegetative systems. The site chosen is too close to the White Goat Wilderness area. Private profits should not be made on public lands--profits which leave the area and conceivably the province. The convention facilities and so-called "cultural and educational" aspects would be in direct competition with proposed facilities in Red Deer.

Green areas are increasingly scarce everywhere--future generations will depend on our judgment. Hopefully it will be an unhurried decision, with its benefits to extend to all and not to a select few.

Yours truly,

*Maxine O'Riordan*

Maxine O'Riordan

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Mrs. F. M. Russell

June 18, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Re: Canmore Hearings - June 22 and 23, 1973  
Specifically - Wilder Proposal

Dear Sirs:

As a resident of the Banff National Park and a conservationist I would like to register my support of the Alberta Wilderness Association's stand on preservation of the wilderness areas on the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies.

Also, I would like to register my objection to the Wilder Proposal for development of the one-mile area between the East Park Gates and the Harvie Heights residential area. This area should be preserved as a buffer area around the perimeter of the Banff National Park for wildlife migration. Also, any development of that nature so close to the East Park Gate would cause no end of congestion in an already congested traffic area.

I plan to attend the hearings at Canmore, but would like to have this letter officially registered.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. F. M. Russell,  
Box 1737,  
Banff, Alberta.



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from  
Larry Schmidek

June 25, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in regards to the industrial and commercial development on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

I disagree with the idea of developing any part of this area in any way. This would ruin the ecology of the beautiful area if there was to be any industrial or commercial developments.

I just came back from a four-day camping trip on the eastern slopes around the area of Onion Lake. The scenery was so beautiful, you could just sit back and look at it for hours on end. You could take photos of the scenery without any signs of civilization at all, but the photo wouldn't look all that nice if it were to have a gas station around every corner of the road.

Another major factor that enters into the picture is where are wildlife going to go? This area is the major grazing area for elk; if development comes into this area the elk will have to stay further back in the hills where grazing is very poor. This will cause a great depletion of the numbers, as if elk aren't depleted enough.

On the industrial development side of the picture, this can be one of the most harmful things that could happen. Strip mining is one of the most destructive forms of industry there is. This has ruined many acres of land, not only in beauty but in use by man and wildlife.

I am totally against this development and I am prepared to fight to the very end to see that this project does not go through.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Schmidek

R. R. 1, Markerville  
Alberta  
TOM 1MO

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Janet Crosby

7821 Saskatchewan Drive,  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
June 19th, 1973.

Mr. Phil Dowling,  
Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 107th Street,  
EDMONTON.

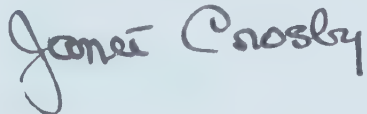
Dear Mr. Dowling:

The David Thompson Cavalcade and Indian Days will run August 4th - 6th on the Kootenay Plains.

We are very worried about these beautiful and fragile plains. You permit cars to run all over the whole area (except in the little 2 o'clock Creek campground) ... I think a dustbowl condition is imminent unless this uninhibited driving is stopped. The large worn-out dusty area at the east entrance to the new foot bridge across the Saskatchewan is an extreme example ... doubtless made by the bridge builders but a sad result of over-use nonetheless.

Couldn't you designate road areas, and these ONLY in the designated 'Kootenay Plains' meadow and insist that cars and motorcycles drive only on these roads and then only to reach their campsite? It is such fragile dusty land and so very beautiful. Now even the little meadows quite far from the highway have dusty car tracks everywhere--and the grass is not recovering.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Janet Crosby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Janet" is written with a large, looped 'J' and the last name "Crosby" is written in a similar cursive style.

Mrs. D. R. Crosby.  
CC: Mr. R. G. Steele, Director of Forestry,  
Natural Resources Bldg.,  
Gov't of Alberta,  
EDMONTON.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Welzbacher

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Welzbacher  
7112 Silverview Rd. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Gentlemen:

I was not able to attend the hearings on "Land Use" in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies but have been following the newspaper stories with interest.

I am alarmed that a small user group called the Wilderness Association are trying to gain control of large tracts of prime recreational land in our foothills for exclusive use of hikers, hunters and fishermen. Myself, family and many of my friends are long-time users of these areas which we use both summer and winter for hiking, riding, fishing and snowmobiling. It is very important that this land remain accessible for all types of recreation and not fall into the hands of a small group, for their exclusive use.

We are also concerned that the large commercial developments proposed in the Kananaskis and Spray Lakes areas will become another high-priced fiasco similar to the Village Lake Louise proposal and we would be very much against this type of development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mr. + Mrs. Joe Welzbacher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Welzbacher

# Alberta Bicycle Association

affiliated to the Canadian Cycling Association



9413 - 91 Street,  
Edmonton,  
Alberta.

July 4th, 1973.

Dr. Trost,  
Environment Conservation Authority.

Dear Sirs,

The Alberta Bicycle Association, a group which promotes bicycle racing and touring within the Province of Alberta, is very much in favour of the proposals of the Canadian Youth Hostels Association regarding their development of hostels along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

Many times this summer, groups of cyclists, i.e. parents with children, young people and people who wish to feel younger, will tour our province, especially the mountain areas because of the beautiful scenery. These tours will stay at the Youth Hostels overnight in many areas, enjoying the natural surroundings. The nominal fees charged by the hostels makes these tours possible.

Our association works hand in hand with the Youth Hostels Association for safe and healthy recreation in our great province. As you are all aware, sport recreation is becoming increasingly important in Canada and will become more so as leisure time increases in the future. Cycling and hiking are certain to become even more popular than now, as they are a recreation for everyone, young or old, the costs are well within the reach of the average person, and both pastimes are within most people's physical capabilities.

The Alberta Bicycle Association believes that the proposals put up by the Youth Hostels Association should be given every consideration by the Environment Conservation Authority.

Yours sincerely,

*Phyllis Timperley*

Phyllis Timperley  
Secretary, Alberta Bicycle  
Association.

Dr. Trost,  
Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter received from: S. Kubasek

May 16, 1973

Box 99,  
LUNDBRECK, Alberta.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I feel very much opposed to any large developments by private enterprises within the Alberta Forest Reserves that would in any way restrict the public from enjoying nature as it should be. And, that it should remain very much as it is today, for our future generations to enjoy rather than have it restricted by large money making development. These developments could be made on private land adjacent to these forest reserves and still have the forest and mountain areas for enjoyment and other uses within reasonable distance.

*Yours truly*  
*Steve Kubasek*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: Rick Morrish, R.R. #1, Rocky Mtn, House.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 1G5

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to the story in the Rocky Mountain House paper, the Mountaineer. It is about the eleven bighorn sheep that Robert Smallboy and his band killed. The Mountaineer said to send briefs to you.

I feel that the treaty Indians have too many privileges that they take advantage of. Lots of the treaty Indians live better than the white people in the area; therefore, there is no need for them to hunt all year round on crown land. They should be able to buy enough clothes and food with their treaty money and not need to kill animals unless in the same hunting season we have in the fall.

I wonder are you going to allow Robert Smallboy and his band to leave a mess like they did in the Kootenay Plains area, because it is disgusting.

Thank you

*Rick Morrish*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from: R.L. Brown.

June 20, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

I would like to place a few of my concerns before the hearing.

1. Protection of the watershed taking in consideration of need for forested as well as muskeg areas to retain water.
2. To provide a safe place for animals where they are not constantly shot at or molested by machines.
3. A greater amount of park area should be provided to insure more area for people's leisure time.
4. Wilderness parks should be left as natural areas. They will be needed in the future as well as for the present.
5. Commercial development should be strictly controlled to very free parts along a major highway. Campgrounds will be a need and should be developed for people, not to make someone rich.
6. The eastern slopes belong to the people of Alberta for the most part, and should be kept that way for the future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R.L. Brown', with a stylized, flowing script.



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Mr. & Mrs. E. Tarbay

Mr. & Mrs. E. Tarbay  
R. R. 3  
Innisfail, Alberta

June 12, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the development of the eastern slopes of the Alberta Rockies. My husband and family enjoy getting out to this country and since it is only a three-hour drive from where we farm, it is nice to go camping for a few days or for a day's drive and it doesn't cost us that much. We like the kind of holiday where we take a couple of horses and camp out, not the kind where people have campers on their trucks with all the modern conveniences in them and the people think they are really roughing it. It doesn't matter how far we have gone back in the mountains, you always see or hear signs of civilization (e.g. empty pop cans, cut lines, or trail bikes buzzing along). We have noticed from the times we have enjoyed the west country the steep decline in the animal population. We have a trapline and have noticed the downhill trend on it also. It seems the more development, the more people, the less animals. I know about ten years ago you could drive out west and be assured of seeing elk or moose along the road but now you're lucky if you see any animals at all when you go out. I think this is a shame as I'd much sooner see the animals in the wilderness than in a zoo. We would not like to see this country developed any further because we know that the development that has been done, e.g. oil wells, coal exploration, has caused a great influx of people, thus the peacefulness of the countryside is greatly upset.

Yours truly,

*Ernie & Marlene  
Tarbay*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from D. & D. Runciman

D. & D. Runciman  
Bull Creek Ranch  
Box 13  
Longview, Alberta  
June 1, 1973.

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
9912-107 St.  
Edmonton, Alberta

Last year, in the M.D. of Rocky View, approvals were given for 188 subdivisions and in the M.D. of Foothills for 140 subdivisions. These range in size from 80 to 160 acres, but taking it at an average 120 acres, it would mean approval to subdivide 40,000 acres in 1972. At that rate, 400,000 acres would be subdivided in the next ten years, to equal an area four times the size of the City of Calgary, which covers 155 square miles.

Question 1.

What provision is there to be for the Indians? The reserves are crowded now. Their population increases at the normal rate, added to that is the increase in Family Allowance and the fact that they do not practise the destruction of their unborn young. Since the affair at Wounded Knee Indians all over North America have made it clear that they will not continue to tolerate treatment as inferiors and second class citizens.

The planners had better start planning now to prevent trouble before it starts.

Question 2.

With a projected 400,000 acres of productive land being taken over for housing development, what is the population of the future to eat? Who will produce beef and where?

The 40,000 acres subdivided in 1972 would produce 30 million pounds of grain and 200,000 pounds of meat annually.

We are told that the future ranch will be in a feedlot, that this is being done in California now. Considering the size of some of the present day feedlots, there would be room for quite a number of 20 acre estates inside their fences.

But suppose the cow-calf operation of the future is handled in a smaller, even a very small area, where is it to be? This explosion of city population all over the country is not only in one region, but literally all over the country, and in view of the hassle over the Agrimart in Calgary, it seems unlikely that the country squires will want a feedlot next door, even on the chance of acquiring cheaper steaks.

And if Utopia is a chicken in every pot, where will the chickens be raised?

#### Question 3.

Where is the feed to be produced on which to raise livestock? Even if the protein of the future is all obtained from soybeans, who will produce the soybeans and where?

Last spring cattlemen had great difficulty obtaining livestock supplement due to a shortage of soybeans.

If it is difficult to meet the comparatively small demand of a seasonal supplement, who will supply the tonnage needed to feed the human population?

#### Question 4.

With an estate on every five, ten or twenty acres, and each of these households using the regular amount of water, not to mention a dishwasher and a garden hose apiece, where is the water to come from?

Are they each going to drill their own well?

What will this do to the water table?

Our neighbours to the south want our water. It may be that before a government in Canada has decided whether or not to sell it, we will turn on the tap one day, and hear a sucking sound, of air not water in the pipe.

And from each of these households, sewage will be draining into the earth, raw sewage, finding its way down to the water, even as that sinks lower.

Question 5.

With one or two autos from each estate commuting daily to and from work, what will become of the clean fresh air the city folk are seeking?

Question 6.

What of the ecology? The city people are not truly trying to escape the city, but bring part of it with them in the form of roads, population, the pollution already mentioned, and the ubiquitous yard light. At night a row of acreages along the highway is just an extension of the city. If these spread out all over the country there soon will be no darkness in the night.

Nature is oriented to the cycles of light and dark, and while some things may be able to adapt, others will die out. Some people living on the outskirts of the city treasured the wild flowers and berry bushes that grew, at one time, right by their doorstep. They would not allow digging, picking or trampling, but in spite of this protection, they are dismayed to see the wild growth steadily receding.

And what about the creatures that feed and travel at night? The country has its night life just as the city has, but unlike that of the city, it takes place under the kindly cover of dark.

Then with roads crisscrossing the land and houses and people everywhere, what will become of the deer, the bear, the coyote and even the rodent, all of which are part of Nature's balanced and orderly pattern. And what of the eagles, hawks and owls? And what of the

warblers, song sparrows, larks and pipits, many of which nest in the grass.

What grass?

What of the shore birds and the swimmers; the plovers, herons, terns, grebes and ducks, when every body of water is overrun with people?

Already we have seen the destruction of the only nesting pair of trumpeter swans in Southern Alberta by someone with a .22.

City people are not to blame for a lot of the destruction that has already taken place. The farmer who cleared every stick of cover to make room for his crops and his big machinery was to blame. The grazer who stripped every blade of grass off his pastures was to blame. And the prissy householder who thinks swallows building under his eaves are too messy, and destroys the nests and the birds, is to blame. All these did their share in the destruction of the bird population, then with the consequent increase in the weeds and insects, they came with the spray and laid down a smoke screen of poison calculated to get any birds that had survived the first onslaught.

There are those of us who love the quiet places just because they are quiet and the wild things because they are wild, but man is the only creature that kills for pleasure.

In the majority, man must destroy to enjoy. He demands the right to slaughter whatever he can reach, to fell whatever he can cut, to trample whatever is at his feet, to pollute whatever his garbage happens to fall on, and to complete the devastation, he lacks even the elementary intelligence to handle fire with safety.

#### Suggestion.

Immediately in already established neighbourhoods of estates, each should be required to set aside a given amount of land for recreation. Where five acre estates are situated together, one acre from each, in a line or square, should be assigned to make an area of five acres. Where the estates are larger, more land should be set aside until there

is a network of small parks, picnic areas, however they may be designated, throughout the region. Also there should be a right-of-way laid out for snowmobiles where they may travel without packing the snow and making grazing impossible, not to mention harassing animals, domestic and wild, in the open.

As it is now, farmers and ranchers are expected to host all kinds of recreation, hunters, campers, fishermen, cars, trucks and snowmobiles. When city people move out to the country they should be obliged to take their share of the burden and at the same time make it possible for their less favoured fellow citizens to go out and spend a day in the country too.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from the Anton Barvir family

1525 - 38 St. S.E.,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
T2A 1G7

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Gentlemen:

We were not able to attend the hearings on "Land Use" in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies but have been following the newspaper stories with interest.

Our entire family have been using the foothills for camping, hiking, trail riding and snowmobiling. Our two sons trail ride while the rest of us (four in number) hike and fish. We do not see why a small number of people such as the Wilderness Association should have it strictly for hiking and horseback riding. To this day we have not seen very many other hikers in this area and the bikes in no way affect our hiking. There are all sorts of trails strictly for hiking in the National Parks so why ban the very few areas left for trail riding? There is lots of room for all family recreation in this area of the foothills.

Sincerely,

*Anton Barvir*

Mr. Anton Barvir

*Mrs. Elaine Barvir*

Mrs. Elaine Barvir

*Robert Barvir*

Robert Barvir Age 17

*Donald Barvir*

Donald Barvir Age 15

*Cheryl Barvir*

Cheryl Barvir Age 13

*Richard Barvir*

Richard Barvir Age 11



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from C. Ford

Environment Conservation Authority,  
Edmonton.

Dear Sir:

After reading newspaper stories on the hearing on land use in the eastern slopes of the Rockies, I was very disturbed about the minority Wilderness Association trying to gain control of a large area my family, friends and myself use all year 'round. To me it should be for everybody, not just a few. We all feel that recreation for everybody is more important than just a small percent. Using four-wheel drive, trail bikes and snowmobiles does no harm to nature.

Thank you for my opinion being heard.

Yours sincerely,

C. Ford



1373

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from Bev and Abb Martin

June 6, 1973

Re: Smoky River Basin

Dear Sirs:

We are very interested in the Little Smoky River southwest of Fox Creek. The wife and I travel 285 miles to fish for Arctic Grayling in that part of the river every year. We plan and dream about this trip all through the long winter months. Therefore we urge you to keep the Little River unpolluted and protect its watershed.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bev + Abb Martin".

Bev and Abb Martin  
Lougheed, Alberta

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from W. A. Kehler

June 27, 1973  
Wimborne, Alberta

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sirs:

With regard to the "Land Use and Resource Development on the East Slopes", I wish to outline my thoughts on the subject, as follows:

1. No further recreational or commercial development of the area west of Sundre be undertaken except to upgrade and expand the A.F.S. campground program.
2. Agricultural use of the green areas be terminated pending complete environmental impact studies and only in compliance with their recommendations. This is especially critical where summer grazing leases reduce winter feed for elk and sheep.
3. Any future road building in the green area to be restricted in width and in design speed limit well below that of the Kananaskis "Freeway", to provide a leisurely pace to camping trips.
4. The proper places for commercial resorts in areas where the ecology has already been artificially changed, such as:
  - a. Spray Lakes
  - b. Lake Minnewanka
  - c. Big Horn Dam (North Saskatchewan River)
  - d. Brazeau Dam (Brazeau River)

Additional commercial accommodation in other areas should be restricted to existing townsites, such as:

- a. Sundre
  - b. Nordegg and Rocky Mountain House
  - c. Cadomin
  - d. Hinton
  - e. Grande Cache
5. No further road building such as the seismic exploration, oil well drilling or coal mine evaluation be allowed until these resources are definitely and imperatively needed here at home. The introduction of this calibre of road imposes excessive hunting pressures in localized areas. In particular, the area enclosed by the Panther River in the south to Red Deer River in the North and the park boundary in the west should be reclassified as an area for hunting, with horses only and absolutely no motor vehicles, i.e. 4 x 4's, snowmobiles, trial bikes, dune buggies, swamp buggies or aircraft to be allowed in this area at any time of the year.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views on this subject. If I can be of any further assistance, I can be contacted at the enclosed address.

Yours truly,



W. A. Kehler,  
P. Eng.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from J. Donald

River Ridge Ranch Ltd.  
3301 Spruce Drive  
Red Deer, Alberta

June 1, 1973

Environment Conservation Authority  
9912-107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Attention: Dr. W. Trost, Chairman

Dear Sir:

It has been brought to my attention that your Authority will be holding land use hearings in June for the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

I feel that the following points should be contained in a proposed policy for land use in this area.

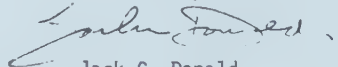
1. Do not permit commercial operations - these can best be developed inside existing towns and villages.
2. Maintain the area primarily as a source of fresh clear water.
3. Uses which are compatible with No. 2 (above) should be allowed, i.e. trail riding, hunting, fishing, skiing, trapping, etc.
4. Allow use of the area by people only in a manner which will not damage or impair the area itself. Ban vehicles and snow machines if damage is occurring.

The above points are not, in any way, a "complete policy" but reflect my ideas only.

Specifically, I would like to see the coal development and any proposed commercial development in the Panther River, Dogrib, Red Deer River area stopped, at once. I understand that one or more of the proposals to be considered at your upcoming hearings wishes to develop this area. It is an excellent wild game wintering ground and should not be commercialized in any way!

Thank you for your anticipated kind consideration of my ideas.

Yours truly,



Jack C. Donald,  
President

JCD/jd

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter  
from H. Bryant

Mr. Harold J. Bryant,  
Box 1356,  
Rocky Mountain House,  
Alberta.

28 May, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912-107 Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
T5K 1G5.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I was informed to get in touch with you with regard to my idea which was put in for the Centennial year 1967.

Since you have some ideas now you will see from my letter I had this plan going in 1967 and also for further information I might say I had seven letters from the Department of Lands and Forests on this suggestion.

My letter following is a copy of my idea and thoughts I had then and still stand by it that things for the future need to be looked into and ideas now I see might become a reality.

The following is my letter for Centennial Year 1967:

I am writing to you in connection with a Centennial plan or idea. I have enclosed part of a map showing where the plan I have in mind is if at all possible to bring into being for ours and future generations to enjoy.

This area could be set aside and called "Centennial Provincial Park" and would be a very good project for Centennial Year 1967. It is west of Nordegg on the Thompson Highway via Rocky Mountain House. I sincerely believe it could be developed into a very nice park for something to stand out for Alberta, Canada and the world to be proud of and a permanent honour to a Centennial year. The running and maintaining of this park could possibly be shared by the Province of Alberta. When the now present highway is finished it will connect into the highway connecting Banff - Jasper parks and entrance gates could be built like those at Banff and administration carried out in a co-operative manner and thus this place could be developed in a place for the future generations to enjoy the solitude of the wild and the beauties of nature in the years to come.

So I'll leave this idea in your hands and others who might be in government positions to think over and decide whether we should have this for our heritage.

To those who might be interested in this, such as Mr. E. C. Manning, Department of Lands and Forests, and others, I would be pleased to know their versions on such a project for Centennial Year 1967 to uphold Alberta's progress.

Trusting to hear from you regarding this suggested idea for the Centennial year 1967 as to it coming into being, a proud citizen of Alberta who would like to see something to make a centennial year 1967 for Alberta and those to come.

In my letter of January 3rd, 1968 the park was renamed by me to "David Thompson Provincial Park" from "Centennial Provincial Park".

You can ask the Department of Lands and Forests for a letter of July 8th, 1970 under File No. 122755GL. Provincial Parks, Request for Parks.

Trusting this comes straight to your cause for parks, I remain

Yours truly,

Harold F. Bryant.

SUBMISSION OF P. BURNS COAL MINES LIMITED

ON COAL LANDS HELD IN THE

HIGHWOOD COAL AREA OF ALBERTA

Brief submitted by: John J. Marshall  
P. BURNS COAL MINES LIMITED

JUNE 1973

BREIF SUBMITTED BY P. BURNS COAL MINES LIMITED

To Environment Conservation Authority, June 19, 1973.

INCORPORATION & HISTORY

P. Burns Coal Mines Limited (hereinafter called the "Company") was incorporated June 24th, 1913 as a Dominion company. It was established to take over and develop extensive mineral rights which the late Senator Patrick Burns had acquired from the Government of Canada in what is known as the Highwood coal area of Alberta. Copies of representative grants from the Government of Canada to Senator Burns are attached hereto as Schedule D.

From its inception, all of the shares of the Company have been owned by Canadians. At present the issued shares are beneficially owned by Burns Foundation Limited, the shares of which are in turn owned by the Estate of the Late Senator Burns. The capital of the Estate will in due course be distributed 67% among 37 next of kin, all of whom are residents of Canada, and 33% to 5 charities.

COMPANY HOLDINGS IN HIGHWOOD COAL AREA

During the period from July 5, 1913 to December 30th, 1916, the Company acquired and continues to hold:

- (a) the fee simple rights to all minerals, except gold and silver, in 12,319.375 acres of lands described in Schedule "A" hereto and shown on



Plan "B" hereto. All but six of these twenty-eight mineral titles expressly include "the right to work the same".

- (b) coal leases granting the right to search for and extract the coal in Sections 11 and 29 of Township 19, Range 7, West of the 5th Meridian.
- (c) the fee simple rights to the surface of the lands shown on Schedule "C" attached hereto, which either overlay or are adjacent to the aforesaid mineral rights.

#### INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

Over the years the Company has spent in excess of \$350,000.00 on the acquisition, maintenance, exploration and development of these properties. In addition, it has caused others interested in acquiring an interest in these properties to spend substantial sums. The most recent was Utah Construction & Mining Co., which spent \$119,670 in conducting a feasibility study including test hole drilling on these properties in the years 1970 and 1971.

Such expenses have included:

- (a) lease rentals to the Government of Canada prior to 1930 and to the Government of Alberta since then of \$49,772;

(b) surface and mineral taxes of \$15,073.

As a result of such expenditures and efforts by the Company and others, it is estimated that the lands contain over 300,000,000 tons of good quality coal. Exploration to determine the presence of other resources, such as petroleum and Natural Gas, has not been carried out.

By an Act of the Legislature of the Province of Alberta, assented to on April 13, 1918, the Calgary & Southwestern Railway Company was incorporated to construct a railway from the City of Calgary to these mineral rights. A right-of-way was surveyed, portions of it were purchased and cleared in the expectation of providing a means of marketing the coal from a mine to be established on these rights.

A tunnel of over one-half of a mile long was dug into the side of a mountain and equipped with trackage and coal cars to extract the coal.

These earlier hopes and efforts came to an end when it became apparent that it was not then economically practical to mine and market the coal from these rights as steam coal for heating and industrial purposes.

More recently, in the 1960's, the City of Calgary displayed considerable interest in the possibility of developing a thermal power plant on the property as a source of electricity.

Most recently, in the 1970's, Utah Construction & Mining Co. (now Utah International Inc.) conducted a program to determine the practicability of developing these rights as a source of coking coal for the Canadian and Japanese markets. They have abandoned their original concept of a large scale strip mining operation but have indicated some interest in the possibility of developing a smaller scale underground operation.

#### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Memorandum of Agreement dated December 14th, 1929 between the Government of the Dominion of Canada and the Government of the Province of Alberta, which Agreement is annexed as the schedule to the Alberta Natural Resources Act, Chapter 3, Statutes of Canada 1930 it is provided as follows:

" The Province will carry out in accordance with the terms thereof every contract to purchase or lease any Crown lands, mines or minerals and every other arrangement whereby any person has become entitled to any interest therein as against the Crown, and further agrees not to affect or alter any term of any such contract to purchase, lease or other arrangement by Legislation or otherwise, except either with the consent of all the parties thereto other than Canada or insofar as any Legislation may apply generally to all similar agreements relating to lands, mines or minerals in the Province or to interest therein, irrespective

of who may be the parties thereto".

SUBMISSION

Given the current energy crisis and the rapidly increasing energy costs in Alberta and elsewhere, the Company's mineral rights, including coal and petroleum and natural gas (if found to exist) can make an important contribution to the economy of Alberta and Canada.

With the continuing growth of the City of Calgary and the trend towards more leisure time and activities the potential of the surface rights for development for recreational purposes such as skiing is of increasing significance.

The Company accepts that any resource or recreational development would have to proceed subject to the laws, rules and regulations of general application to all property owners, and with due regard to requirements for protection of the environment. Subject to such restrictions the Company should be permitted to retain and develop these long held rights; or alternatively, fair compensation ought to be made for its loss of investment to-date and business expectation.

Respectfully submitted by:

P. BURNS COAL MINES LIMITED

PER: 

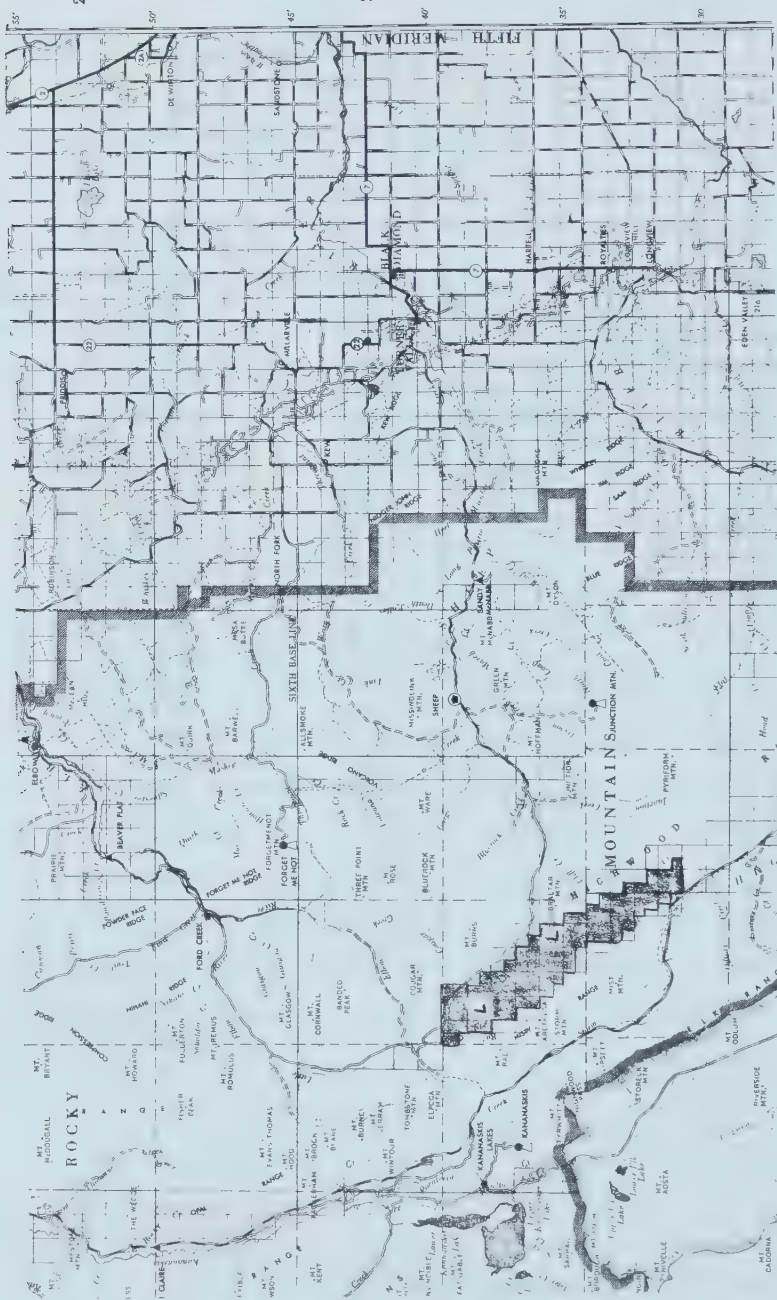
PRESIDENT

SCHEDULE "A"P. BURNS COAL MINES LIMITED

<u>Certificate</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Minerals</u>
3-E-129	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15-19-7-W.5th	161	Surface & Minerals
3-E-128	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14-19-7-W.5th	161	" "
3-E-130	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 22-19-7-W.5th	161	" "
3-E-221	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 17-18-6-W.5th	160	All Minerals
3-K-105	Sec. 18-18-6-W.5th	640	" "
3-K-104	W $\frac{1}{2}$ & SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19-18-6-W.5th	480	" "
3-E-222	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30-18-6-W.5th	159	" "
3-E-223	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13-18-7-W.5th	160	" "
12-O-66	E $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24-18-7-W.5th	560	" "
3-E-224	Sec. 25-18-7-W.5th	636	" "
8-P-110	E $\frac{1}{2}$ & NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 26-18-7-W.5th	478	" "
8-P-109	Sec. 35-18-7-W.5th	631	" "
3-E-225	W $\frac{1}{2}$ & SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 36-18-7-W.5th	474	" "
3-E-226	W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 1-19-7-W.5th	318	" "
3-E-227	Sec. 2-19-7-W.5th	636	" "
3-E-228	N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 3-19-7-W.5th	322	" "
13-J-109	E $\frac{1}{2}$ & NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 9-19-7-W.5th	483	" "
3-E-229	Sec. 10-19-7-W.5th	644	" "
3-E-230	S $\frac{1}{2}$ & NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15-19-7-W.5th	483	" "
3-E-231	Sec. 16-19-7-W.5th	644	" "
3-E-232	E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 17-19-7-W.5th	318	" "
3-E-233	Sec. 20-19-7-W.5th	636	" "
3-E-234	Sec. 21-19-7-W.5th	644	" "
5-P-42	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 28-19-7-W.5th	480	" "
3-E-235	E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 30-19-7-W.5th	318	" "
13-O-187	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of LSD 5 & E $\frac{1}{2}$ & NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & LSD 3 & 6 of Sec. 31-19-7-W.5th	576.375	" "
5-P-25	W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 33-19-7-W.5th	320	" "
5-P-45	Sec. 32-19-7-W.5th	636	" "

---

12,319.375 acres.



SCHEDULE "C"

<u>Certificate Number</u>	<u>Description of Surface Rights</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
3 E 129	N.E. 1/4 of Section 15-19-7-W5th	161
3 E 128	S.W. 1/4 of Section 14-19-7-W5th	161
3 E 130	S.W. 1/4 of Section 22-19-7-W5th	161
3 E 216	N. 1/2 of Section 12-19-7-W5th	322
12 H 201	N.W. 1/4 and S. 1/2 of Section 13-19-7-W5th	483
12 H 202	N.W. 1/4 and E. 1/2 of Section 14-19-7-W5th	483
3 E 217	N.W. 1/4 and E. 1/2 of Section 22-19-7-W5th	483
3 E 218	S.W. 1/4 of Section 23-19-7-W5th	<u>161</u>
	Total	<u>2,415</u>



BRIEF ON  
WATER CONSERVATION IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Submitted to  
Environment Conservation Authority

by Joy Fowler  
3710 - 43 Avenue  
Red Deer, Alberta

1973

This brief expresses the concern and opinions of myself as a native of Alberta and a member of the Alberta Natural History Society in regard to the use and conservation of our water resources of the Eastern Slopes in general and the North Saskatchewan and Red Deer River Basins specifically.

The single most important resource of the Eastern Slopes is water. Eighty-seven percent of Alberta residents and 42 percent of Saskatchewan residents depend upon this watershed for their supply.

The Alberta and Canadian governments recognized the importance of this watershed in 1947, when the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board was established to protect it. Today pressures brought to bear on government by developers are threatening to bring about relaxed control and thus reduce the area's water-producing potential. Once this happens it will be impossible to reverse the process. Tree cutting, grazing, mining, dams, water diversions, and recreational developments and activities all have a marked effect on the area's water-producing capabilities. For this reason it is imperative that the government retain ownership and complete control of existing Crown lands on the slopes.

Mountain valleys are logical places to construct reservoirs but they are also important travel corridors, recreational sites, wintering ranges and migratory routes for wildlife. Mountain reservoirs are too cold to facilitate water sports and therefore are not ideal



recreational areas. Deep water and steep rocky slopes are not suitable nesting areas for waterfowl. Dams produce downstream effects such as reduction of floods, loss of riverbed gravel, loss of access to migratory fish, loss of nutrient supply due to lack of flooding. Seasonal flooding prevents poplars and willows from becoming established, but allows sedges, rushes and grasses to grow, affording nesting sites and winter graze. Before building dams and diversions, the estimated effects on wildlife are an important consideration. Where practical, alternate sites east of the foothills should be selected. The proposed Ardley reservoir, on the Red Deer River, while not relieving Red Deer of its water problems, promises to be more suitably located. The river valley in this area is not important to wildlife or farming. It could be valuable to waterfowl and provide a good resort area conveniently located for Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton residents.

It is imperative for our well-being to protect the watershed of our prairie rivers, not only to ensure safe environment for our generation, but to ensure a safe future for succeeding generations of all forms of life. The responsibility that falls on us at this time is to make sure that land uses endorsed today will ensure long-range benefits.

Perhaps we can even provide for absolute protection in perpetuity, but we should not deprive ourselves or our descendants of those resources which may reasonably be needed. We cannot value too highly the priceless heritage that lies to our west.

#### Recommendations

1. That the Government of Alberta retain ownership and complete control of existing Crown lands on the slopes.
2. That the Government of Alberta maintain a current inventory of soil, water, vegetation, wildlife, topography, geology, aesthetic and recreational resources in the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies. This classification for land use should be based on inventory.
3. That existing wilderness areas remain completely protected from development.



*Towards A Foot Trail Across Canada*

NATIONAL TRAIL  
Box 6623, Station D, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E4

Acting President  
L. Douglas Campbell, Calgary  
Acting Vice President  
David R. Fisher  
Alpine Club of Canada  
Acting Secretary  
Ann R. Prewitt (416) 661-9725  
Canadian Camping Association  
Mavis E. Berridge  
Girl Guides of Canada  
William H. Carrick  
Canadian Nature Federation  
F. R. Dorward  
Waskahegan Trail Assoc.  
J. C. Ervens  
Association des Clubs de Randonnee  
Pedestre du Quebec Inc.  
Quebec Hiking Clubs Assoc. Inc.  
Charles E. Greb  
Greb Hiking Bureau  
Patrick Hardy  
Algonquin Wildlands League  
Joseph A. Hood  
Boys' Clubs of Canada  
Dave Horne  
Canadian Youth Hostels Assoc.  
Maritime Region  
Eleanor M. Kay  
Y.W.C.A. of Metropolitan Toronto  
Charles Lennox  
National and Provincial Parks  
Association of Canada  
Ray Lowes  
Bruce Trail Association  
Gerald McKeating  
Federation of Ontario Naturalists  
Rix G. Rogers  
National Council of YMCAs of Canada  
Stanley O. Rosenbaum  
Alpine Club of Canada  
D. W. Swanson  
Boys Scouts of Canada

Submission to the

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Public Hearings

on

Land Use and Resource Development

in the

Eastern Slopes

by

THE NATIONAL TRAIL

1973

Summary

" IT IS SUBMITTED THAT PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCENIC FOOT TRAIL TO EXTEND  
THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES "

THE PROPOSER

The NATIONAL TRAIL is an association whose objective is to establish a foot trail across Canada.

It is composed of individuals and associations representing a very wide range of interests as illustrated by the support received from the following national organizations:

- Alpine Club of Canada
- Boys' Clubs of Canada
- Boy Scouts of Canada
- Canadian Nature Federation
- Canadian Camping Association
- Canadian Youth Hostels Association
- Girl Guides of Canada
- National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada
- Y.M.C.A. National Council of Canada
- Y.W.C.A. of Canada

Objectives of the NATIONAL TRAIL are as follows:

- To preserve places of natural and historical value
- To promote healthy outdoor activities
- To foster interest in the natural environment
- To develop a national and natural resource
- To strengthen national ties
- To provide places to enjoy leisure amid the natural scene

The scheme calls for the establishment of a chain of provincial trails which passes through the more populated southern regions of Canada, thereby providing ready access for people of all ages and to serve the interests of hiker, snow-shoer and cross-country skier. There will be room for the botanist and bird-watcher, rockhound and rock-climber, artist, photographer and historian.

## THE PROPOSAL

Insofar as the Province of Alberta is concerned, the Bow Valley is the guide for the route, with extension to the Yellowhead Pass in the west and the Cypress Hills in the east.

The trail will therefore present a splendid cross-section of the Alberta scene encompassing alpine meadows, the forest and fen of the mountain parks, the foothills country, the river scene across the prairie, the semi-desert lands of the pronghorn antelope and the unique range of the Cypress Hills.

Accordingly, it is submitted that provision should be made for the establishment of a scenic foot trail to extend the entire length of the Canmore Corridor from the East Gate of Banff National Park to Bow Valley Provincial Park.

Ideally, this trail should follow the drier and warmer slopes of the north side of the valley, rising to the higher extremes of the benchland where superb views are obtained of the valley and ranges to the south. Preferably, elevation should not exceed the 5,000 feet level in view of intersecting creek beds and canyons.

The choice of route becomes limited where the mountains close in at Gap Lake and the trail will need to descend to river bank level.

Our proposals are indeed flexible with regard to route and can be styled to accord with other land uses. In fact, the trail might fit well with other proposals in serving campsites or youth hostel.

The minimum requirement for a trail is a continuous route of three-foot width, avoiding very steep grades, with access points by highway at no greater intervals than seven miles. Parking areas should be provided at access points although use of motorized vehicles will not be permitted and will be discouraged by the physical nature of the trail which will conform to construction standards of other trail systems, notably the Bruce Trail of Ontario.

Where conditions are appropriate the trail should broaden and include side or loop trails to points of particular interest or to provide

alternative and more strenuous routes for the ardent trail-user. Such secondary trails in the Canmore area should provide access to the principal mountain-tops and canyons.

While the awarding of a grant or other governmental assistance will be welcomed, adequate resources of voluntary effort are available within the province, through the NATIONAL TRAIL, to deal with all aspects of administration, planning, construction and maintenance of the trail.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by: Oscar Morck.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee and citizens in attendance:

There seems to be a general opinion that the prime concern is to safeguard the watershed of this area. The quality of life, both human and animal, can be no better than the condition of the water resources.

This being the case I find myself opposed to multi-million dollar tourist development along the higher elevations of our watersheds, simply because it has been proven in other areas of the world that the building of these facilities and roads into areas of a delicate ecology do have an adverse effect on the watershed.

I suggest that consideration be given only to areas along well-developed existing roads running east and west into this area, e.g. The Bighorn Dam and Lake Abraham.

I further suggest that developers be encouraged to locate more modest recreation facilities outside of what is now known as Forest Reserves on submarginal farming areas and existing Crown land. There are many such sites to the west of the Calgary - Edmonton corridor, within an hour's easy driving range of Highway No. 2. These areas could easily be made into both summer and winter facilities which could serve the needs of our own citizens as well as tourists. These sites could well serve for jumping-off spots for more restricted enjoyment and use of headwater areas.

I also favor more restrictive management of mineral and oil development in the area.

I also favor a more comprehensive management of fishing, hunting and timber resources, the establishment of larger or enlarging the existing Wilderness Areas, the phasing out of existing cattle and horse grazing leases, and that farmers and ranchers relying on these leases be helped and induced to increase forage production on private holding, under other governmental departments.

Respectfully submitted.

*Oscar Morck*

Oscar Morck  
Spruce View, Alberta  
TOM 1VO

1395

A BRIEF  
ON  
LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE  
EASTERN SLOPES

by

E. B. Cunningham, M.Sc.  
727 4th St. So.  
Lethbridge, Alberta

Much has been written about the East Slope of the Rockies and the sequence of events leading up to these hearings has been well documented. It would add little at this point to review the events and point out the mistakes that have been made or indicate alternate courses of action that should have been taken.

Perhaps it will suffice to say that the ultimate fate and destiny of the lands in question is of importance to every present and future citizen of Alberta and indeed all of Canada. These hearings are an indication that the present Government of Alberta has recognized this fact and it is to be commended for its action. One can only hope that the opinions of the people expressed in these hearings will ultimately be reflected in legislation.

There is a certain urgency about the matter today which might have been avoided had these hearings been held a decade earlier. Much has happened to the East Slope during the past two decades--some of it good, some of it bad and unfortunately much of it irreversible. Today the rate of change is accelerating and we are truly at the cross-roads in-so-far as the East Slope is concerned.

If there has been a constant factor in the management of these lands in the past it has been a lack of consistency in their management. There has been no overall objective or long-range master plan to guide management and development. To date the area has been managed as a package of separate unrelated parts rather than inseparable pieces of a whole.

It is obvious that this type of management is no longer valid. The lands have been explored, the wilderness conquered and the resources identified. We are dealing with a known finite entity--one which will grow no larger; one which can offer few unknowns and one which must serve the people of Alberta and Canada for an indefinite period.

The development of a long-range master plan involving a--1) detailed inventory of resources, 2) projections of demands and uses and 3) specific management objectives--should be of greatest priority and no major developments or activities which will significantly alter the East Slope should be permitted until such a plan is completed and reviewed.

The master plan must invoke a new philosophy. The explore, exploit and develop at any cost, philosophy which has prevailed in Alberta and Canada in the past is no longer acceptable.

Such a philosophy is perhaps inevitable during the early stages of a country's development. In the past exploration, exploitation and development were slow processes and a country had time to change its philosophy of land husbandry to fit the time and circumstances. However, technology has so accelerated the pace of development that



philosophy has not had time to adjust. Technology can change rapidly because it involves machines--philosophy changes slowly because it involves the human mind cluttered by a millenia of experiences. The first involves tightening a nut or bolt the second the reprogramming of a massive computer. In effect our philosophy of how we should manage the land has not kept pace with our ability to modify the land. In Alberta we generally maintain the philosophy of a century ago in an age that has seen the land pass from unknown to known in a matter of twenty years. The same process required centuries in Europe.

The initial step in the evolution of a new land philosophy for the East Slope is acceptance of the fact that the area has been thoroughly explored, that its resources are known and that they are finite. In effect we know what the area contains and what its potentials and limitations are.

Perhaps the second step in the development of a new philosophy is to acknowledge that there really is a tomorrow and to rid ourselves of the sense of urgency that has characterized resource development in Alberta to date. It isn't necessary for this generation to make itself responsible for the ultimate development of our resources. Development in the past has often proceeded as if there were no tomorrow--as if this generation must drill all the oil wells, mine all the coal, and build all the roads. We are a rich Province--our non-renewable resources aren't going anywhere and they can only increase in value and with time. We can well afford to develop them in our own good time.

The third step in the development of a new philosophy of the land is acceptance of the fact that land is the ultimate resource base and that all true wealth is derived from the land. As long as the land remains intact, uses based on the land can be altered or changed. Destruction of the land or resource base is a final irreversible step which eliminates future choice. Above all our new philosophy must guarantee the integrity of the land. Activities which cause the destruction of the land may have great short-term economic value but they can hardly be termed progress in the true sense of the word.

Our new philosophy must be futuristic and take into account such things as population, leisure time, income, technology and changing values and aspirations. It must concede that benefits come in many forms and that not all can be measured in dollars. It should recognize that Alberta is a rich Province in more than a monetary sense. It should strive to keep Alberta not only a good place to work but also a good place to live, play and grow as individuals. It should provide a truly quality environment.

Above all our new philosophy must retract the old philosophy--that the greatest and fastest possible economic gain and growth justifies the means--which has dictated much of Alberta's development to date.

I should now like to go one step further and express my view concerning certain issues which are of special concern to me.

NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Problems related to the exploration and development of non-renewable resources in the foothills and mountains have been well-documented in the E.C.A.'s public hearings on surface mining. I would like to endorse most of the recommendations of the E.C.A. resulting from those hearings.

Exploitation of non-renewable resources especially those involving surface mining is potentially the most destructive of all land uses. Its implications and consequences are far reaching both in terms of time and in terms of conflicts with other uses.

Strip mining in the mountains cannot make Alberta richer or a better place to live. The more extensive such mining becomes the poorer the Province will ultimately become. It is a short-term one-shot effort involving a few people which eliminates future choices and replaces beauty and a broad spectrum of renewable values with permanent desolation. In the end the cost of reclamation (if possible) will far exceed the value of the coal removed. The lesson of Appalachia should be heeded.

The pattern of coal mining is predictable; a flourish of activity and prosperity during exploration and development followed by decline and depression as the easy deposits are exhausted. This is invariably followed by requests for government assistance of one form or other and of pressure to relax mining rules to reduce costs. In effect coal mining creates depressed areas and their associated social ills at public expense requiring continued public expenditure to maintain them at a tolerable level of depression.

Grand Cache presents a case in point. Albertans paid nearly one hundred million dollars for a railroad to enable a foreign company and imported miners to extract coal to be shipped to a foreign country. In return we are left with a disturbed landscape, a problem community, the debt with its eight million dollars per year interest and a pittance of fourteen cents per ton royalty on our coal.

It is difficult to comprehend how Alberta and its people have benefited from Grand Cache. Rather than an asset it is a burden. Other mining areas in the Province present a similar depressing history.

RECREATION

Recreational demands on East Slope lands will accelerate rapidly in the near future. The increased demand will be brought about largely by increasing population, leisure time and income. Within a decade limits will be placed on the numbers of visitors permitted in the National Parks further increasing pressure on the East Slope.

The recreational potential of the East Slope is not unlimited. The numbers of fish which the waters will produce, the numbers of animals available for harvest, the number of suitable campground sites are all limited. Even the country suitable for sightseeing, wilderness hiking, skiing, nature study and photography is limited.

As the numbers of people involved in these activities increase, the quality of the experience will decrease. Already high quality recreational activities such as hunting and fishing have been reduced to a "rat race" in the Oldman Drainage because of easy unlimited access to limited resources.

Recreational planning for the East Slope should consider quality as well as quantity. The maze of roads and trails resulting from oil and mineral explorations and logging, coupled with the development of sophisticated all-terrain vehicles, has opened up virtually every valley to motorized traffic. Man seldom appreciates those things which requires little effort and are made too easy. Easy access to the valleys and mountains of the East Slope has resulted in a massive onslaught of this beautiful and sensitive country by people and their machines who have no feeling or appreciation for the land.

Many of the vehicle trails up side and tributary valleys should be blocked off and reclaimed so that effort is required to gain access and quality and appreciation restored to the experience.

Prime sites for recreational development should be reserved for public use and not be leased to private organizations and commercial developers. All private and commercial leases should be of a short-term nature so the land can be reclaimed for public use if needed. Large-scale commercial recreational developments should take place on private lands outside the Forest Reserve and Commercial interests should not be permitted to occupy large tracts of public land or restrict access to public lands.

In the final analysis the recreational use and value of the East Slope will probably exceed all other uses and values combined. The suitability of the area for recreation largely hinges on its being maintained in a reasonably unimpaired condition. Since recreation is a non-destructive type of land use, the value of which extends over an infinite period of time, it should be given priority over destructive kinds of uses whose values cover only a short time span.

#### RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Proper planning and management can permit the continued harvesting of renewable resources without undue interference with recreational use of the East Slope.

There are at the present time a number of conflicts related to renewable resource management which must and can be resolved through proper planning and management. For example:

1. Summer grazing of domestic livestock should not be permitted on key ungulate winter ranges but should be restricted to deep snow areas which are unavailable to ungulates in winter. There is probably ample forage for both, given proper distributions.

Domestic livestock should be controlled around developed recreational areas to reduce competitions between the two interests.

Key grazing areas for both wild and domestic animals should not be sacrificed in the interests of strip mining especially where key winter ranges are involved.

2. The harvesting of timber should be permitted as long as it is not unduly destructive to the landscape. Greater care must be exercised when logging occurs and adjacent to water courses and greater effort must be made to reclaim logging roads and trails following removal of the timber. The roads and trails should be sealed to permit the area to return to its natural condition as quickly as possible.
3. The unproductive character of East Slope streams limits their ability to produce fish. They cannot provide quality angling to large numbers of people. Continued quality angling for wild fish can only be ensured by reducing access and other restrictive measures.

Quality angling is a total aesthetic experience involving all of the senses. The experience is enhanced by clean air and water and a quiet undisturbed landscape. A catch of fish constitute only part of the total experience.

Water quality is the key to continued trout production on the East Slope. Activities such as mining and logging not only detract from the aesthetics but can have a serious effect on water quality as well.

4. The continued production of harvestable surpluses of ungulates on the East Slope hinges on our willingness to protect and maintain key critical winter ranges. These ranges are well-known and their protection simply involves implementation of known management procedures. In other words we have the knowledge to insure the future of wildlife on the East Slope--we only lack the will.

## 4. continued.

Hunting like fishing is a total experience involving far more than simply killing an animal. The quality of hunting on the East Slope has deteriorated in many areas because of unlimited access and increasing pressure. These trends will have to be reduced through restrictive measures if hunting is to remain a quality form of recreation.

CONCLUSION

It has been said that, "all true wealth is derived from the land" and that "a country's wealth is measured by its land". History has repeatedly shown that the well-being of a nation and its people is directly linked to its husbandry of the land.

Land can have many uses. However, these uses can be generally categorized as either destructive or non-destructive. We are now at the crossroads in-so-far as the lands of the East Slope are concerned. We can develop a new philosophy based on maintaining the integrity of the land above all else or we can continue to try to serve all interests and meet all demands even at the expense of the land.

The first choice will serve the best long-term interests of Alberta and its people--the second will not.

## LAND USE OF THE EASTERN SLOPES

A BRIEF PRESENTED BY  
THE COMMUNICATIONS 10 CLASS  
OF THE  
BAWLf HIGH SCHOOL

WILDLIFE

"Alberta's mountain sections provide a variety of big game, while a plentiful supply of game birds appears throughout the province. From mid-July to September, the best fishing in the territory is enjoyed in the mountain streams of the Rockies and foothills and the northern wooded areas."

(Tour Book of Western Canada - Spring 70 & 71)  
Canadian and American Auto Association

We are of the opinion that it is a good idea to have a few more industries, but to go to the extent that the landscape is devastated just for the sake of progress is absolutely unnecessary.

There is a tendency for rapid industrialization; that results in areas of wasteland (example: Forestburg, coal diggings).

As the working hours of our world become shorter, we are faced with a greater amount of leisure time with no place to spend it. A vast increase in National Parks usage has occurred as a result. "An increase of 5 million to 14.5 million from 1961-1972."

(Federal Government Statistics)

If some of this land being considered could be developed for recreational purposes, more people would benefit, hopefully leaving much of the land close to its natural state with the homes of the wildlife still intact.

As industrialization progresses, more capital will have to be put aside for building and maintaining wildlife sanctuaries. If this isn't done, we can expect a complete loss of the opportunities to see and enjoy the wild and beautiful animals. We will deprive future generations of the God-given privilege of coming close to nature in its true habitat.

We are lucky enough to experience these things, and yet we shouldn't have the right to take it away from others just for further financial gain, especially when we are not in that grave a need of it.

For all these reasons, we feel that complete industrialization is definitely NOT the answer.

All we're trying to say is that the more development we let into our wilderness areas, the more wildlife we'll drive away. The animals need a home and these areas are among the only natural habitats they have left. The animals around our own areas are being driven away with the draining of the sloughs and the clearing of bush for farmland. If this is happening around here what's it going to be like when people start clearing land for industry? Industries, unless controlled, tend to bring about pollution of air, land and water, thus diminishing food supplies and homes. (Example: Appalachian region west of New York.) Do we really need industry so badly that we must endanger some of our wildlife to the point of extinction?

We feel that there is presently no real need for industries such as lumbering and mining in the eastern slopes of the Rockies. We should preserve the natural state of the land. There is a need for the conservation of our wildlife because there are not many accessible areas in Alberta where wildlife can be seen in the natural state.

1. We feel the rivers will eventually become polluted like some other rivers of Alberta where industries are situated.  
(North Saskatchewan, Bow)
2. Industries tend to wreck the beauty of the landscape. Example: Forestburg.



We feel that a number of new campgrounds could be set up. These should be just an area in which to camp with few facilities like electricity, paved roads, etc. Hunting should be limited and mainly for Albertans.

#### INDUSTRY OR NO INDUSTRY

Growing population and increasing numbers of tourists will have need for the proposed land in the future for resort areas. Naturalists are concerned about the environment; industrialists are after profits; and some individuals would like to see the standard of living improved by mineral resources of the western Alberta foothills. Perhaps we are too concerned about progress without sufficient regard for the people concerned. We feel industries will be pressured into this because of the traditional progress of industry regardless of what the majority of people involved think.

Industry is not an evil force working against man but is one which must be controlled as it expands and increases production. But as we mentioned earlier the industrial trend is set and it would not be wise to stop it abruptly. Proposals for all activities and specific areas involved must be studied and analysed by experts concerned about moral values for the greatest number of people. Industry that would cause permanent or excessive damage to the natural habitat is not necessary and would provide financial profits to only a small number involved. Those granted permission for industry or tourism should be concerned about the environment and humanity in general instead basically of profit.

#### THE BENEFITS OF INDUSTRY

The increasing demands for energy in Alberta will place even greater emphasis on the best use of all possible energy resources. In our Alberta climate, the development and full use of the prairie thermal coal deposit will continue to increase in importance. Besides the value



of the coal, there would be the advantages of capital investment in the creation of jobs.

Although non-renewable resources such as coal, natural gas and other minerals results in a disadvantage to us because of the wasting and destruction of land when mining or drilling, there are also many renewable resources such as timber and grazing land. Products and by-products resulting from these industries are very beneficial to Alberta economically, besides the very important aspect of employment.

We recommend that after an industry completes operation in a certain locality, there should be special attention paid to the re-development of the land to its natural state. We also recommend the company should supervise this area until the vegetation planted is mature.

Even though there are obviously both good and bad aspects of industrial and recreational planning, we feel that the good aspects of industry outweigh the bad; therefore we feel industry should be practiced in this area to a certain extent under special government supervision.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural resources found in the Eastern Slopes include oil, gas, various minerals and timber. In our study we are primarily concerned with the non-renewable resources, including extraction of natural gas and minerals.

#### Oldman River Basin

The predominant non-renewable resources concerned are coal and natural gas. Limestone, gravel and some low-grade iron and copper deposits are also found.

There are extensive coal deposits north of the Crowsnest Pass, but coal mining in the mountains faces several major restraints

such as: trouble competing in markets where demand fluctuates widely; few deposits are easily accessible; and because the earth's crust tends to shift over geological time periods, the coal is often badly fractured and steeply inclined. Detailed exploration must be carried out to determine how extensive a given deposit is and it must be decided if this mining will be beneficial or profitable due to the drawbacks of mining in mountain terrain.

Natural gas is another important non-renewable resource of the Oldman River Basin. It is an essential energy resource and demand is directly linked to continental and world energy markets. Conditions are favorable in this zone, but commercial quantities of natural gas have not been confirmed. So once again, will it be beneficial to deplete the small, existing resources. Development will be expensive, due to the rough terrain, for relatively small gain.

#### Bow River Watershed Basin

The rough, rugged terrain of this area, characteristic of the Eastern Slopes, will pose expensive development problems. There have been some leases issued for the purpose of coal, petroleum, and natural gas exploration and extraction.

Quarrying is a large and popular industry in the Bow River watershed basin. Limestone at Exshaw and gravel and sand at Canmore are responsible for extensive surface mining.

#### Surface Mining

The operation of surface mines in mountainous terrain can pose great difficulties. Exploration including road building and trenching leaves widespread scars. Disposal of overburden from open pits is awkward because of steep slopes and lack of room.

Reclamation of surface mining sites in the foothills and mountains is almost impossible. Many factors cause this including amount of precipitation, altitude of site, slope of land, temperature and plant

cover. Location of the site pre-determines whether reclamation can be done with any assurance of success.

As the probability of permanent damage is high in the foothills and mountains, reclamation will not restore pre-mining conditions, regulations should be stiff and strictly enforced.

#### Recommendations based on the Report and Recommendations of the Environment Conservation Authority

1. In determining whether or not to grant mining rights, the possibility of successful reclamation, the value of post-mining activities compared to pre-mining use, and the real need for more minerals must all be considered.
2. A strong emphasis must be placed on site investigation and location in the foothills and mountains.
3. A detailed engineering plan must be filed showing land contours, details of proposed disposal and storage of spoils and final slopes and contours of reclaimed site.

#### Tourism -vs- Industry

Tourism would be more of an asset than industry if anything is to go into areas considered. This recreational use must be controlled or else it would be just as bad as the "mess" that some industries would make. In some of the recreational areas now pollution is becoming a major threat. If further development in this area is to be considered, we the people of Alberta must, as a whole, become more conscientious about preserving our environment. We believe the pollution of recreational areas can be controlled more easily than pollution of industries. The number of people going into these areas must be limited. (An example, the numbers of people going into a park must be limited. In Yellowstone Park the terrain is being trampled to death.) The amount of land used for these parks must also be limited to protect the wildlife environment of Beautiful Alberta. It seems further industry is not

absolutely necessary in these areas at this time and until the need becomes so great we need not develop it industrially.

We as a group are really saying that we feel that recreation and conservation should take priority over industrialization until it is absolutely necessary.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by: Bev Burns.

The future of the eastern slopes will affect ourselves and the generations to come. The problem must be studied carefully before any important decisions are made.

The world is rapidly becoming over-populated and people are leaving the cities and heading out into the hills for some peace. They used to be able to find real wilderness: wild game, fresh air and water. Now when campers go out for a weekend all they run into is other people and the rubbish and mess that is left behind.

Industry also have been looking for new productive sites and campers are bound to witness the results: polluted air and water. Industry has also marred the scenic value that most of the area once had. However, industry can only seem to understand how much money they can make right now--never mind if there will be anything worthwhile to spend it on in the not-to-distant future.

I will give my support to the Alberta Fish and Game Association policy. The following are areas that the policy mentions that I am especially concerned with. It is true that people can be allowed in the travel corridors through the Eastern Slopes. Care must be taken that not too many additional accommodations are made because the more room made, the more people come. Only as many people can be allowed as will not seriously damage the ecology of these service areas. All areas away from travel corridors must not be provided with better roads and accommodation places. These areas should be left for people who really want to get into nature and are hiking, cross-country skiing or some other method of transport that won't damage the fragile environment. This is necessary because the society has many different people who enjoy nature in different ways.

I am also in strong agreement with the Alberta Fish and Game Association concerning industry and non-renewable resources. Industry must definitely be checked.

It really gets down to what people want out of life--some simple roots to natural things, or a hustle of concrete and machinery.

*Bruce Burns  
Spruce View*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Submitted by: David Hamer

In corresponding with the Environment Conservation Authority concerning my opinions on future directions of land use in the Eastern Slopes region of Alberta, I wish to make two brief points. In sidestepping the complexities and problems of Eastern Slopes planning, I stand confident that environmental protection will be the guiding force in decision-making, and that management programmes will be adopted which provide the largest number of options to land-use for future generations.

First I wish to support measures which will result in "buffer zones" along the Waterton Lakes, Banff, and Jasper National Park boundaries. Such land-use classification is, I believe, essential to the fulfillment of the roles of our national parks. It is a key to complementing and maintaining the national park wilderness resource, in a country where urbanization of both land and people is ever increasing; and this coordination of land-use classification between national park and province is also necessary for the maintenance of viable wildlife populations which utilize ranges within both national park and provincial territories.

Adjacent to special areas Class I, wilderness recreation Class II, and natural environment Class III land-use areas as have been designated for parklands by the National and Historic Parks Branch, the province of Alberta should designate wilderness buffer areas of sufficient size to complement the wilderness landscape created within the national parks. Extractive industries, large recreational resorts, or roads situated next to national park Class I and II lands would negate attempts to create a wilderness experience for park visitors.

With respect to wildlife populations, it is recognized that artificial boundaries are no deterrent to population movements; and some out-of-park protection for animals which use both park and provincial lands may be necessary to ensure the continuance of the species as part of the local fauna. Both habitat protection and regulation of provincial harvests may be required.

This concern is especially felt for increasingly uncommon species, including the grizzly bear and wolf, and the mountain caribou and mountain sheep. Close cooperation between the National and Historic Parks Branch and the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Province of Alberta could yield successful management and conservation programmes to maintain the full diversity of Rocky Mountain wildlife populations. The second point of emphasis concerning my opinions on land-use directions for the Eastern Slopes is well expressed by Aldo Leopold:

Wilderness is a resource which can shrink but not grow. Invasion can be arrested or modified in a manner to keep an area usable for recreation, or for science, or for wildlife, but the creation of new wilderness in the full sense is impossible.

from A Sand County Almanac with Essays on  
Conservation

I would caution against land use which permanently removes land from public ownership, or which permanently reduces the natural values of an area. Such developments shrink the wilderness resource, and reduce the number of options available to future land managers. Developments such as hydro-electric projects, roads or highways, or proliferation of private cottages would have long-term effects on the recreational, wildlife, and wilderness potentials of the Eastern Slopes region.

The quantity and quality of the wilderness resource continues to decline with a reciprocal increase in importance and value. The numerous proposals for campgrounds, Youth Hostels, trail riding operations, recreational resorts, and other enterprises which require a natural setting (Information Bulletin 4, Commercial Proposals for Tourism and Recreation) attest to the ever-increasing values placed on natural areas, and result in a necessity to avoid over-development (which "kills the golden goose").



I would hope that full consideration be given to the proposals for wilderness areas as will be presented by the Alberta Wilderness Association. I believe that a maximum number of the wilderness area proposals should be approved in a form as close as possible to that presented by the Alberta Wilderness Association, rather than following the road of compromise and giving approval to a larger number of ineffectual reserves.

In conclusion, I believe that the wilderness resource with its complement of recreational and wildlife values is the prime and ever-increasingly important resource of the Eastern Slopes region, and that enterprises which remove land from such potential should be restricted to both prevent permanent loss of such land, or to prevent over-development. By preserving a maximum part of the Eastern Slopes region in a natural state, the greatest number of options for future directions will remain available. I also believe that the designation of national park "buffer zones" is in the best interest of Canadians, in order that the protection of Rocky Mountain wildland and wildlife, which has a beginning within the national parks, will be effectively secured.

Respectfully submitted

*David Hamer*

David Hamer  
Box 399  
Revelstoke, B.C.

A BRIEF CONCERNING LAND POLICY DECISIONS  
OF THE EAST SLOPES OF ALBERTA

To: The Environment Conservation Authority

Submitted by: Miss A. Fosty  
816 Bridge Cresc. N.E.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2E 5B5

"Our approach to nature is to beat it into submission. We would stand a better chance of survival if we accommodated ourselves to this planet and viewed it appreciatively instead of sceptically and dictatorially."

E. B. White

I dedicate this presentation to the future generations of the world. May they know, as I know, the natural beauty of mother nature, unspoiled by the sterile, maniacal, hideous destruction of man. She is more beautiful than words can e'er impart.

My brief, for the most, argues on specific mandatory considerations which also apply to resource use in any area of the world. At this point in history, we cannot consider "the east slopes" as an entity, separate from all other related concerns. The decisions reached as a result of these hearings are an important historical milestone. They determine the trend of things to come. The type of policy adopted determines the specific values, or lack thereof, of modern technological man. Will we continue to push further and further into the wilderness, the man who gets his hands on the biggest slice of natural resources being the best citizen? What are contemporary western man's standards of a good quality life: dirty air, poisoned water and soil, motorbikes, snowmobiles, luxury motels, dishwashers, traffic jams, noise pollution, a "rat race" frenzied existence, or clean air, water and soil, and areas where we can truly experience "the tonic of the wilderness . . ."? (Henry David Thoreau)

Of all our natural resources, water is surely our most precious. It appears most unwise to develop too close to the headwaters of our rivers. We should be making every attempt to conserve our water, and we must consider every facet of the delicate complexities of all our water systems. They are for use, not abuse. Assuming that present consumption patterns and population trends both continue, it won't be long until water usage in Calgary is doubled.

Before development along any water system is embarked upon, should not we be considering the cumulative effects downstream? Nature does not operate in closed and separate compartments. It is not possible to add to water anywhere without threatening quality everywhere. Should not studies be done by unbiased objective researchers rather than those who are paid to supply the "right" answers?

Our use of water, from the east slopes, varies from agriculture to manufacturing; it includes resource extraction, recreation, water and forestry management, institutional and ethnic concerns. Is this not a dependence that demands responsible action? Another stark consideration is that the more people who use a water system, the higher are the per capita costs of avoiding water pollution. Let us not lose sight of the fact that the vast Sahara Desert is largely man-made; the result of overgrazing, deforestation, water abuse, and faulty irrigation. We undo nature's built-in checks in complete ignorance of the essential intimate relationship water, soil and plants maintain to support the animal life Mother Earth bears. Without water we are doomed.

I would like to suggest, at this time, that the present Alberta government has not been doing its homework. Weren't immediate post-war policies development, progress and economic oriented? These appeared "necessary" to the surface observer at the time; it is now 1973 and administering a province on post-war policies spells sure destruction.

This myth of generating jobs and building a stronger economy is surely outdated. Just how naive are the people of Alberta? This stale simplistic economic argument at the expense of our environment has

always had the same happy ending. Financial returns are rarely seen by those to whom the promises were made. Meanwhile the developers' banks are bursting, as they continue their shotgun approach to nature.

Our economy must sooner or later be changed. Why not attempt to do this in a systematic organized fashion while we may still be in control, or will only dire destruction lead the way? What will we capitalize on when our natural resources have been depleted?

We have a vast economic storehouse in our wilderness areas left as they are. The only "advantage" of recreational development is "the redevelopment and re-creation of city standards" in wilderness areas. An advantage? The most we can sanely allow our conscience and our better judgement to approve is a recreational policy completely compatible with the environment. As recreational development is incompatible with lumbering, oil, gas, and coal we should not even consider commercial development. The aesthetic values of the wilderness are as much our inheritance as are the limestone and coal, the forests and the wildlife.

Needless to remind you, further development (due to population trends and the growth structure of our population) is not necessarily a solution to overcrowdedness. We will be forced, sooner or later, to set limits. If development is to occur, it should be adjacent to already developed areas. An excellent and only sensible location is the Canmore Corridor.

Twenty years from now, what economic brackets will be able to afford the proposed recreation areas? What economic brackets can afford them now? I venture to suggest that they are largely patronized by the upper middle and middle class segments of our society. Where in any environmental, futuristic planning have there been solutions to our historic problem of these natural commodities not reaching our poorer classes? As a teacher, many is the child I have known, who has not had an opportunity to venture out of our city gates. Yet the June 15, 1973 edition of the Calgary Herald (a "responsible" newspaper which realizes that most people adopt news

opinions per se and don't think to question - a result of our "good" educational system and brainwashing) stated, "some prefer to absorb the majestic scenery around them from man-made comforts, rather than from the freshness of a mountain stream." One segment of our society cannot meet and appreciate nature on her terms due to their high standards. Another segment cannot economically afford to. To further illustrate, Joe Giza of Blairmore, at the Coleman hearings said, "There are enough restrictions in life without adding more." I ask him, "Are not all species restricted? How unnatural are restrictions?" I find his attitude immature, selfish, limited and perverted, an attitude bred by our society's blind desire to dominate and control all life.

In answer to Ken Hull's reference (June 15, 1973, the Calgary Herald) to Albertans "who overwhelmingly protect their mountain forests," I reply, "It is our sole responsibility. The government has time and again proved their irresponsibility and incapability." The point, if not already obvious, is rather than worrying about recreational and, God forbid, commercial development to serve the affluent who increasingly demand higher standards, we should be spending our time and money preserving our natural heritage and coordinating with educational institutions and other organizations to make available our rich cultural, geographical and ecological resources to all Albertans.

I urge you, members of the East Slope Hearings Board, to consider with utmost respect every consideration I have pointed out. I have written this brief in earnest sincerity, and I truly feel that your decisions are of paramount importance, as much as to be an historical milestone. I beg you to humbly accept that man can no longer continue his lethal disrespect and disregard for all living things. We must begin to see ourselves as a part of a whole interrelated complex system. Technological development is not a panacea for our present ills, now basically due to overdevelopment.

Thank you kindly.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

*Miss Arlene Fosty*  
Miss Arlene Fosty  
816 Bridge Cres. N.E.  
Calgary T2E 5B5

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by the  
Grande Cache Saddle Club

The Grande Cache Saddle Club was incorporated under the Societies Act on June 26, 1972.

The club has made application to the Department of Lands and Forests, on September 13, 1972, for a lease of 33 acres of land. This land, due to the extension of boundaries, now lies within the New Town of Grande Cache.

The Grande Cache Saddle Club paid the required fee of \$225.00 to secure the lease. To date, the lease arrangements have not been finalized.

Recent inquiries by the club, regarding the finalizing of our lease, have indicated that the Department of Lands and Forests is holding up finalizing all pending leases until the Eastern Slopes Hearings are completed.

The Grande Cache Saddle Club has invested considerable money in barns and fencing of the lease area. We would be pleased if the Commission would recommend to the Department of Lands and Forests, that our application be finalized.

Respectfully submitted by the

Grande Cache Saddle Club.

1419  
BRIEF

to

The ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

concerning

DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE USE ON THE EASTERN SLOPES

\* \* \* \* \*

Submitted by:

P. A. Bonnett

B. N. Daniel

E. M. Nazar

Gentlemen,

I wish to thank you for providing this opportunity to the citizens of Alberta to make known their concerns and desires in respect to the future uses of the Eastern Slopes.

The region in question is one of considerable value since it is physiographically very different from most of the provincial landscape. The fact that this region is small, relative to the total area encompassed by the provincial borders emphasises the need for care in deciding upon the type of development to be encouraged on the Eastern Slopes.

Resources of varied type occur in the foothills and mountains of Alberta. Conflicts are therefore inevitable unless certain principles of use and management can be agreed upon and adhered to.

I wish to recommend that the following principles be adopted in determining which uses are appropriate for the area in question.

1. The sanctioning of uses today should not close options for different uses in the future.
2. The prime resource of the area is the watershed - it should not be impaired in any manner since it is in the public interest to maintain this resource in as close to the natural state as possible.



3. In determining the appropriate forms of development for the Eastern Slopes region the optimal benefit to the public at large should be given due weight. In assessing this benefit, judgement should not be restricted to assessing merely the monetary aspects or those benefits which can be readily quantified.

I wish to further recommend that the decisions upon appropriate use be made by an agency established to manage and integrate all development occurring in the Eastern Slopes region. This agency should have the authority to control both the allocation of land and the sub-surface rights and in addition have the power to insist that specific forms of management plans accompany all operations in the region.

Any such agency must be constituted in such a fashion that it is receptive and responsive to the public at large in order to ensure that its decisions reflect the wishes and protect the interests of all Albertans.

In connection with the use of the Eastern Slopes for recreation activities, I am concerned that sufficient restriction is placed upon particular forms of activity in specific areas of the region. Recreation can be quite as damaging to the environment as any other exploitive commercial activity. It is imperative therefore that this type of enterprise as well as any other form of development sanctioned in the region be required to internalise all external costs in order that appropriate charges will be borne by the users and not the community at large. The character of the region, the fragility of some ecosystems, the unique and irreplaceable quality of much of the foothill and mountain environment make intensive forms of recreation activity largely unacceptable.

It is disquieting therefore to see the scale and magnitude of some of the commercial development proposals received by the Environment Conservation Authority, since several appear incompatible with the ability of the resource to absorb the impact which will necessarily result. Even if adequate management could be enforced upon the operators of the larger recreation developments, the return on capital that would then accrue might be insufficient to justify the high level of investment. Intensive, non-resource based activities should not be encouraged in the Eastern Slopes, rather such activities belong in and around the urban centres.

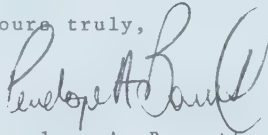


To summarise

- : I would like the Environment Conservation Authority to advise the government of Alberta
- : to encourage only those uses which are compatible with the capability and capacity of the environment
- : development of the region should be under the control of an agency capable of integrating all planning and management.

Thank you for your attention,

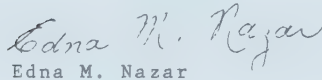
Yours truly,



Penelope A. Bonnett



Betty N. Daniel



Edna M. Nazar

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief presented by  
H. Krogh

THE EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL  
BUSINESS ON THE EASTERN SLOPES

Gentlemen:

I am presently a student at the Spruce View High School and it has been called to my attention that there is a proposal to commercially develop the West country, in particular the eastern slopes.

I have just returned from a camping trip in the district of Onion Lake and the natural beauty of this country is something everyone should see at least once in their lifetime. If we begin to develop this wilderness country, the natural beauty will be lost to everyone--this generation and the generations to come. If this country is destroyed it can never be fully replaced.

Not only will the beautiful scenery be destroyed, but the natural habitat of many of our wild animals will be destroyed. This land is one of the few last retreats that are suitable for the elk and grizzly bear. What will happen to them if this area is commercialized? Will they too be forced into extinction by the thoughtlessness of man?

As a citizen of Alberta I am strongly against the proposed commercialization as I believe we will regret it in the future if we allow the destruction of the natural beauty of this country.

Yours sincerely,

*Heather Krogh*

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Typed copy of a letter from John M. Wright.

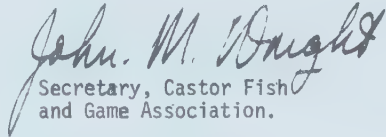
Box 183,  
Castor, Alta.  
28 May 1973

Dear Sirs:

Members of the Castor and District Fish and Game Association, being aware that the provincial government wishes to solicit public opinion upon the land use of the Alberta flanks of the Rocky Mountains, compiled the following informal brief to be sent to the Environment Conservation Authority.

We hope that the views expressed in our brief will be considered by the government's representatives as a part of their assessment of land use priorities in the area mentioned.

Yours respectfully,

  
Secretary, Castor Fish  
and Game Association.

We of the Castor and District Fish and Game Association believe that the area of the Rocky Mountains and its foothills in Alberta is unique in that it is a piece of relatively undeveloped wilderness on the doorstep of two major cities. The relatively undisturbed Alpine forest and fauna should therefore be valued highly, because of its increasing scarcity and weighed carefully, particularly in considering commercial exploitation of its resources.

We recognize that a multiple-use land policy is desirable and that economic necessities must be accommodated for, but we ask that this most important non-renewable resource of natural flora and fauna be conserved as far as possible.

To be more specific, we would not like to see the development of modern access roads, campsites, gas stations, motels in that relatively virgin territory which lies upon the flanks of the Rocky Mountains to the west of the Forestry Trunk Route. Access to this region should ensure that large numbers of vehicles and people cannot roam at will. This region should be accessible only by those people who want to ride, hike or travel in specialized vehicles along existing trails. To allow large numbers of vehicles into this area will be to destroy those very qualities of peace and tranquility which many seek.

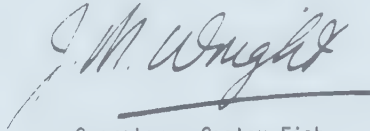
Mineral resources in these mountain flanks should only be exploited when supply from other areas is economically impossible. The ecological damage caused by strip mining in these Alpine flanks should remain foremost in considering any such exploitation. It is a fact that the coal outcrops upon the eastern flanks of the Rockies frequently coincide with the winter grazing range of many animal species, particularly bighorn sheep.

The pressure of tourism upon the National Parks is an indication that there is a demand for further development of camping facilities in a region where leisure activities such as those offered by the National Parks exist. To develop such facilities in an area where animal life, particularly, is not safeguarded would be a disaster. We

therefore would prefer that if access roads, campsites and commercial enterprises catering to tourists are allowed to develop between the two existing National Parks that they be built in that tract of land between the main axis of population and the Forestry Trunk Route. These eastern-most flanks lying east of the Trunk Route are, relatively speaking, partially developed and should offer an ideal camping and fishing area least detrimental to unique flora and fauna of more alpine western slopes.

Finally, we believe that Alberta possesses an abundance of natural fauna, fishing and hunting privileges the like of which have not existed in populous areas such as Europe since the 16th century. Surely, with the advanced machinery of modern administration, the needs of man can be served without the demise of other forms of life.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Secretary, Castor Fish  
and Game Association.

BRIEF  
TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
ON  
LAND USE ON THE EASTERN SLOPES  
OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Prepared by  
The Alberta Trail Riding Association

Edmonton

Brief submitted: J.M. McDonald  
July 4, 1973

## ALBERTA TRAIL RIDING ASSOCIATION

The Alberta Trail Riding Association, an organization representing some four hundred horse enthusiasts in and around the Edmonton area, wishes to place on record its position regarding the land use policies for the eastern slopes of the Rockies.

The Alberta Trail Riding Association has as its primary purpose the promotion and development of trail riding activities throughout Alberta.

- a. To provide a center of trail riding activities for those persons whose major interest in horses lies in the recreational area.
- b. To sponsor, conduct and coordinate trail riding activities.
- c. To act as a coordinating group to influence municipal, local, provincial and federal governments to establish and maintain bridle trails, both within easy reaching distance of densely populated areas and in the wilderness areas of Alberta.
- d. To actively support such horse organizations as now exist or may exist in the future in coordinating efforts to ensure that horse activities be recognized as both a major industry and a rapidly growing recreation activity.
- e. To encourage family group participation with particular emphasis upon youth activities in the trail riding areas.
- f. To publicize the activities of all trail riding associations with the view to the creation of public interest.

Our membership does recognize the importance of industry and technology to our standard of living. However, the highest standard

of living can have little satisfaction if there is no environment in which to enjoy the increased leisure time which is the major by-product of our technology. The formation of the Alberta Trail Riding Association was in itself, an attempt to find and/or develop an environment which would permit the membership to get away from the pace and pressures of our industrial technology in their leisure time.

We are of the firm belief that large portions of the eastern slopes must be dedicated for wilderness recreation, where Albertans can spend their recreational leisure time without experiencing the ultimate symbols of our modern technology. This wilderness should be undeveloped land that retains its natural character, protected and preserved from man made improvements or permanent human habitation.

The above statement suggests that the activities in these wilderness recreation areas must be those that can use the wilderness without unduly changing it. These areas would thus be designated for the benefit of hikers, climbers, riders, hunters, photographers, cross-country skiers and the like. Motorized vehicles of all kinds should be excluded from the area.

The Alberta Trail Riding Association objects to those commercial recreational proposals that seek the long-term lease and use of large blocks of prime recreational land for the exclusive use of their paying customers. The wilderness areas must be available for use by all Albertans. Commercial hostelry and tourist services facilities should certainly be developed in existing traffic corridors. However, the



guests of these commercial establishments must then share the surrounding recreational environment of the wilderness along with other Albertans, with no special privileges for any specific area.

The Alberta Trail Riding Association recognizes that the whole of the eastern slopes cannot be set aside exclusively for recreation. It is appreciated that within the wilderness of the eastern slopes, multiple use of land area has to be considered. However, the uses for this land must be compatible with one another. Past experience would seem to show that the methods used and the care taken by the mineral extraction industries has had little concern for other land users. Consequently, we believe government standards and control of mining and drilling procedures must be improved and expanded. It is inconceivable that strip mining for coal can ever be compatible with other land uses in the immediate vicinity or in the drainage systems downstream. Furthermore, it would be impossible to reclaim the strip site so that it even remotely approached its natural state capable of sustaining the wild flora and fauna. For these reasons we oppose any granting of strip mining permits on the eastern slopes.

In recognition of the beauty and uniqueness of the Willmore Wilderness Park as a wilderness recreational site, the Alberta Trail Riding Association proposes that this area be given protection from the continual encroachments of coal mining interests. It is time that a decision be made as to the boundaries and status of this beautiful area. However, it should not be included under the restrictive Alberta Wilderness Act.

In conclusion we suggest that future political decisions regarding the eastern slopes must not be based solely on short-term economic gain. The quality of life in Alberta is in reality based upon social and environmental factors. Decisions regarding land use on the eastern slopes must more and more take into account the implications of environment and ecology, upon the social and psychological wellbeing of Albertans. Such decisions will only be made if the crown land on the eastern slopes of the Rockies remains under crown control; a policy of compatible multiple land use is adopted; and closer scrutiny of the use and care of the land is carried out.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by  
R. Salant

Provincial Park

I am against a park for many reasons. Once it is endorsed it freezes out industry such as: lumber, mining, natural gas, oil, the cable plant, limestone and trapping, forever! It curbs our fishing and hunting and will increase the hunting in the Kananaskis area and soon hunting will be non-existent.

We will have to pay park prices, which is inevitable as everyone is familiar with. I don't think anyone can afford other increases in the cost of living, especially those residing in this area. Eighty percent of the people are working for wages and salaries, not to mention those on pensions and welfare.

I have read many articles on parks and people and the two just don't go together.

I suggest the only fair and decent manner in which this question can be settled is through a plebescite for the people of the Pass area.

Another solution is to buy up private land which is already restricted. This has already been done in Calgary area at a cost of 15 million dollars.

Our Crown grant land or public property should be kept as is for the use of all Albertans.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robert Salant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Salant" clearly distinguishable.

Robert Salant  
Box 253  
Coleman, Alberta

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by  
Mrs. D. Crowther

Land for Living

"They say that man is mighty,  
He governs land and sea,  
He wields a mighty sceptre  
O'er lesser powers that be;  
But a mightier power and stronger  
Man from his throne hath hurled.  
For the hand that rocks the cradle  
Is the hand that rules the world."  
William Ross Wallace

Dear Sirs,

To me the idea of a park and the money going into it is an insult to our government. The money could have and should be spent for other purposes; hospital and research equipment, psychiatric, drug and alcoholic problems, welfare programs, kindergartens, playschools, instructors for slow learners, help for the retarded, aid for homes and reasonable rents and mortgages for the average wage earner.

Anything for humanity in this area, but to my conscience--not a park! There can be roads, assistance to 4-H clubs, drama clubs, art schools, photography, the SPCA, etc. Anything for people, but not a park. Perhaps even welfare leper bells, who dare to say we need new laws and attitudes in our government.

Mother  
'On Welfare'

Mrs. Darlene Crowther

All details at Attorney General's office  
in British Columbia.

P.S. Left B.C. because of a conspiracy between the government under Premier Bennett and private enterprises who polluted my land.

1433

GRANDE PRAIRIE CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE  
SUBMISSION TO THE  
ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
ON THE USE OF THE EASTERN  
SLOPES

Brief submitted by:  
John B. Powers

GRANDE PRAIRIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
SUBMISSION TO THE ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY ON THE USE OF THE EASTERN SLOPES

I, John Powers, as spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce, represent the Chamber and in particular, the Chambers committees on Tourism and Roads and Highways.

Firstly, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to voice an opinion on the subject at hand.

As human beings, members of mankind, we have proven in the past that we are capable of ruining tremendous areas of natural beauty, telling ourselves that our endeavors are justified because they serve to fulfil a certain need - based on the theory "that all things on earth are intended for man's use -- or misuse."

These hearings, I am sure give an opportunity to everyone interested in the use of the Eastern slopes to make known to all, their views and supporting arguments. For this the Authority should be commended.

The use or misuse of the region will be based on a delicate balance between three major demands.

- (1) For economic reasons, there is a strong demand for the natural resources contained in the area of the Eastern Slopes. We need, or sometime in the future, will need the resources contained in this Region.
- (2) For recreational reasons, there is a strong demand that the area be opened up to use for sportsmen, holidayers, sight-seers, etc.

To add to this, tourism, as an industry, requires the use of such an area to grow.

The Canadian government predicts a 10 Billion Dollar tourist industry for 1980! Spending by tourists is our second most important source of foreign currency.

With domestic travelling, tourism adds up to a 3½ billion dollar business annually and provides full or part-time employment for an estimated ¾ of a million Canadians.

It is estimated that out of every \$100 tourist dollars 18 go for lodging, 14 for food, 23 for gas and oil, 15 for fares and 30 for merchandise and entertainment.

Tourism has become the largest and fastest growing industry in the world.

It is not difficult to see then that the demands that are being made for the use of the Eastern Slopes have far reaching effects.

- (3) For presentation of the natural state, our conservationists and ecologists are most vocal. No one wants to spoil our natural areas but the minute man stepped into this natural area, he spoiled it - to some small extent. To make sure that the Eastern Slopes are not ruined by man is in itself a strong demand.

With the foregoing in mind, the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce has two main regional interests in the Eastern Slope area.

- (1) to build an all-weather paved highway from Grande Prairie to Highway 16 via Grande Cache, and
- (2) to promote tourism as an industry in the Peace River country.

Tourism, as an industry has already been dealt with. The dollars advantage to towns and cities in this region are obvious. The City of Grande Prairie and it's citizens would be less than honest if we did not advocate, strongly, use of the Eastern Slopes as a tourist attraction.

The highway, of course, would serve to help create a very active tourist business.

For the purpose of this hearing, however, let us face a reality. -

The proposed highway link would serve as an umbilical cord for the growth of the entire north section of the slopes for these reasons:

- (1) Proper planning could use such a highway as a base for any proposed land use - now and in the distant future;
- (2) An important link to serve the needs of Grande Cache - an isolated community;
- (3) Less disturbances of the entire area by a planned means of entry and passage, and
- (4) a direct link for Peace River area residents to travel to the National Parks and lower British Columbia.

Submissions to other government bodies (recently the Crump Inquiry in Grande Cache) by the Chamber have outlined the many economic reasons for building such an all-weather paved highway link between Grande Prairie and Highway 16.

In summing up, it is apparent that we Wear many hats -

As Grande Prairians, we want a highway north and a booming tourist trade.

As Albertans, we want to conserve our beautiful eastern slopes but, at the same time we want to enjoy the economic benefits from our natural resources and a tourist industry.

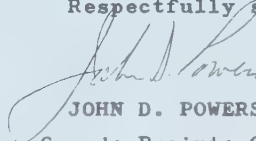
As Canadians we want to preserve our environment but show off our natural physical attractions for tourist dollars. As Canadians we want control over and use of our resources with which we are blessed.



As human beings, members of mankind, we want to enjoy the benefits of everything with the loss of nothing.

As intelligent men, hopefully, a practical working plan for the Eastern Slopes will be found - satisfactory to all.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Powers", is written over the printed name.

JOHN D. POWERS

For Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce

At Grande Prairie, Alberta

July 13, 1973

BRIEF ON LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Submitted by Dr. C. D. Bird

Department of Biology  
University of Calgary

I am a biologist employed by the University of Calgary. I have carried out extensive field research in the mountains of Alberta for twelve years. I would like to discuss an important problem which I feel has not been adequately covered during the Eastern Slopes hearings.

#### Background

There are in Alberta less than 5000 Bighorn Sheep outside of the National Parks. These animals are important members of the mountain ecosystem in many different ways. They are also important to man. Aesthetically, there are few sights more pleasing to a visitor to the mountains than that of one or more sheep feeding on a slope, or more spectacularly, of two rams butting in a dominance fight. This is one of the several reasons why people visit the mountains, and millions of dollars must be spent in Alberta every year for the food, lodging, gasoline, vehicles, books, clothing, and numerous items of equipment associated with this pursuit. The hunting of trophy rams is regarded as premier quality sport by many resident and non-resident individuals. It has been estimated that \$5000 has been spent for each of the 100 or so rams taken each year by non-resident hunters.

#### The Problem

Animals and plants have various limiting factors that control their distribution and numbers. The major limiting factor for Bighorn Sheep is the very small number of areas suitable for winter range. In Alberta, outside of the National Parks, there are only about 100 of these and collectively they occupy less than 500 square miles. The areas, which through a combination of wind and sun remain relatively snow-free during the winter, vary in size from a few acres to a few square miles.

A close scrutiny of Coal Lease Maps made available by the Department of

Mines and Minerals, and of the known winter ranges of Bighorn Sheep according to data compiled by the Department of Lands and Forests, shockingly reveals that many of the leases coincide completely or in part with these very restricted winter ranges.

Coal exploration in the past has had damaging effects on a number of winter ranges, e.g. the Pasque Mountain and Corners areas. Strip mining for coal can have similar, or more deleterious effects, e.g. the McIntyre operation. At worst the effect of this activity is the complete destruction of a winter range by removal of the native vegetation required for food by the animals, at best there is a partial removal of the food plants plus disturbance and harassment of the animals by man and vehicles.

#### The Answers

If we assume that we must prevent a reduction in the numbers and distribution of Bighorn Sheep, and I feel we should; and if we assume that coal mining is an economic necessity, and in most cases I seriously doubt that the cash benefits to the people of Alberta outweigh the costs; then I feel that the following action is required.

1. Cost benefit studies should be required in order to prove that each proposed mine would be economically justifiable. If not, then its development should not be allowed.

2. The Department of Lands and Forests should be consulted in order to determine whether or not a particular projected mine occupies all, or part, of a wintering ground. If it does, then such a development should be: (a) forbidden, if it would destroy the capability of the area to serve as a wintering ground; (b) forbidden, if the cash benefits to the Province would be marginal, regardless of the amount of conceivable destruction; and (c) allowed, only if the cash benefit to the Province would be substantial, and

if the mining activities would not reduce the carrying capacity of the area or significantly disturb the animals. In the last case, serious thought should be given to requiring the operator to use underground mining procedures so that minimal surface damage would result.

3. The present rigorous Provincial regulations involved with coal exploration should be enforced.

4. Coal companies should be required by law to carry out speedy restoration activities so that disturbed terrain will revert to natural conditions in the shortest time possible.

C.D.B.S.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by  
L. J. Plante

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to a park in the Pass area, it's to benefit a minority, not the majority of the people here. I'll admit it will benefit some. The landowners and businessmen in the Pass would greatly be helped out and at a cost to all the rest of the people here, in dollars or restriction, as parks are full of both.

If the government is going to work on this park it's our money they're spending for something we all have now and at no cost to anyone. It's free to all that want to use it and they're welcome out here anytime.

I'm sure we don't need higher costs here in any way, shape or form as we pay out too much now, and as for people wanting to use the Pass as a destination what have we got for them to do or see? A lot of dust, dirt and old buildings is all; the ones who want a park the most should start with cleaning up the Pass, not leaving it an eyesore.

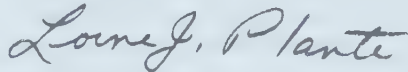
As for saving the game we have, it's simple to put a limited amount of game a person can shoot, and better game management; keeping the livestock out of game areas would also help out and a lot more fish planted wouldn't hurt either.

There had been some mention of saving the caves in the south. Just what could happen to them? That's like saving the Frank slide or the Crow Mountain; there are few who know where they are anyway and I am sure no one can do much to them anyway. I am sure if nature couldn't do much harm a few people can't.

As far as I can see a park is of no advantage at all; the people can swim, hike, hunt or fish now and they're not handed a bill when they leave either. As for the making of a wilderness area here, the last time we had something of that kind was the S. Castle and N.W. Branch. All that

it helped then was the guides and outfitters to have a private hunting ground, as average Albertans can't afford long hunts or horses to go into these areas.

If our Pass needs some attraction, fine, let the businessmen and landowners go it on their own. They can build what they want or sell what they want, but don't expect all the Pass people to get short-changed on our forest reserves. We like it as is; all we need here is more campsites and camp shelters for everyone, and free as they are now.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lorne J. Plante". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a large initial 'L' and 'P'.

Lorne J. Plante

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by  
G. Lovering

The most important aspects of developing an area, by coal mining, timbering and other resource development companies are:

1. The establishment of new jobs.
2. Capital expenditures (equipment, building materials).
3. Provincial gains (taxes, royalties, mineral right sales).

While the profit motive is basic to our economy, dominating the reasoning of business (and sometimes the governing) sectors, it cannot be permitted to be the only basis for decision-making. Unless private citizens speak up when necessary, money may turn out to be the decisive factor, since it is hard for local authorities to go counter to the many sections of the big business community which protest environmental conservation measures (which would mean consequent loss of royalties, mineral right sales and taxes). Although this area, and I shall call it the Oldman River Drainage Basin, is not a designated wilderness area, I shall call it a segment of wilderness. There are no motels, drive-ins, service stations or other types of commercial debauchery developed there, as in our other scenic wilderness areas.

In Alberta, wilderness is an emotional word. It has developed connotations that combine the primitive and the primeval with the virginal and pure. Here in Alberta, our sense of history, our interest in nature, our desire for outdoor recreation and our concern for outdoor, scientific study areas, combine with deep and sometimes irrational emotions to produce attitudes which defy logical analysis. I do not pretend to be free of such attitudes, since the loss of wilderness even in the areas that I will never see, arouses deep feeling. There is a need, however, to distinguish and separate the various reasons for advocating the preservation of wild areas. Confused emotionalism can result in confused management.



Such can lead to the destruction of wilderness areas which I feel the Oldman River Drainage Basin is.

As it stands now, this area is made accessible by the Crowsnest Forestry Trunk Road. All these areas are too easily accessible. This ease of access has had a detrimental impact on the fishing, hunting and aesthetic qualities of the area. On weekends the campgrounds are full, and all along the creeks campers have set up tents. The creeks affected by this overcrowding are Racehorse, Daisy, Dutch, N.W. Branch of the Oldman River and the Livingstone River. Although this overcrowding has a detrimental effect on fishing and wildlife it is nowhere near the impact that a strip mine, forestry or other commercial development will have. This area is still one of the last sections of wilderness that people can fish in wild unstocked streams for native fish, camp in the true wild country (not a 20 x 40 gravelled pad as in our national parks), observe wildlife that is in its true wild state, hike, climb and camp in scenic beauty that has no equal in its own unique qualities.

Earlier I mentioned the amount of profit (taxes, royalties, mineral right sales) that the provincial coffers would gain. When developers are allowed to level trees, bare open topsoil and strip-mine the coal there is no turning back. When the coal is all gone, the trees are logged off, the rivers silted in and the game driven from its range, it is too late. The recreational aspects of the area will never be reclaimed. I am trying to point out that by developing this area for commercial use, we set a time limit on its lifespan. Although through recreational use we do not have a large capital expenditure which would be spent by developing companies, over a period of time the money spent by fishermen, hunters, campers and other outdoor recreational enthusiasts would equal the amount realized by commercial use. (See cost breakdown.) The type of money spent by recreationists cannot really have a limit set on it, for other generations will be doing the same thing if we let this area continue to be a segment of wilderness.

We also have to realize that by developing this area, it will have a great detrimental impact on the fish in this river, forests being

levelled, topsoil and humus being destroyed, letting the rocky streambed fill up with silt where our native fish spawn. Elk, moose, bear and deer will be affected as well as the dwindling range of our Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and the goats.

I am not prepared to put a dollar sign on the enjoyment a family gets out of being together in nature. The release of pressure of city life cannot have a price attached to it. We have to realize with our growing populations that the little wild country that is left has to be preserved for future generations.

Earlier I mentioned the amount of profit (taxes, royalties, land sales, and mineral rights). When developers are allowed to level trees, and bare open topsoil and start the excavations, there is no turning back. When the coal is all gone, the rivers are polluted and the game is driven out of its range, it is too late. The recreational aspects of the area will never be reclaimed. I am trying to point out that by developing this area for commercial use, we set a time limit on its lifespan. Although the recreational use of the area does not put that much money in one lump sum, over a period of time the money spent by hunters, fishermen, campers and hikers equals the amount realized by commercial use. Here are the reasons behind this. A Lethbridge resident wants to go to Dutch Creek for a weekend. Here's a breakdown of cost.

Mileage: 110 one way

	Minimum	Maximum
Gas	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
Food	10.00	15.00
Fishing equipment and bait	5.00	7.50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Incidentals	\$ 25.00	\$ 37.50
	15.00	20.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 40.00	\$ 57.50

Let us say \$40.00 for one man and his wife and two children.  
 $2500 \times \$40 = \$10,000$  for Dutch. Look at proportionate amounts for Racehorse, Daisy and Livingstone, \$50,000 yearly, not including fishing, camping and equipment sales.

Grant Lovering

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by  
J. Sheppard

I am a relative newcomer to the eastern slopes of Alberta. It is one of the most beautiful areas I have seen - rolling hills, soaring peaks and rushing rivers. In addition to all this bounty we are told that there are other riches underneath the land's skin. The Alberta government has called these meetings to try to determine how the people wish to use these resources and it is to the government's credit that they have chosen to ask before acting.

On reading the publications issued by the Environment Conservation Authority (ECA) one gets the impression that one can have the natural beauty of the environment and make use of all the resources at the same time. The "have the cake and eat it too" philosophy. You can't, of course. Using many of the resources, particularly the subsurface non-renewable ones, has far-reaching effects that would destroy, perhaps forever, several important functions of the area.

1. The most important function of this region is as a watershed - not only for the immediate area but also for the rest of Alberta and Saskatchewan and Manitoba. For this reason nothing must be done in the area that would adversely affect this function. Protected regions around the main rivers and their tributaries must be set up. These regions should be allowed to remain in their natural state as much as possible, considering the damage that has already been done, and activities such as strip-mining, logging, gas and oil exploration and the cutting of seismic roads not allowed.

2. I believe it is our moral responsibility to pass on to future generations large natural areas that have not been spoiled by man's activities. In the eastern slopes, because of logging, mining, gas exploration, etc. there are pitifully few, if any, of these areas left. Large areas, representative of the various environments along the eastern slopes,

should be set aside as wilderness areas. These areas should be invisible - no mining or exploration activities, no road development and no access permitted to mechanized vehicles including trailbikes and the infernal snowmobile and most important, the boundaries to be fixed by law and the area not to be carved up with every rumor of a new coal or gold mine. The philosophy behind these areas is similar to that of a national park but without the ready access found in most of our national parks. If you want to see the area you have to go on foot.

I am not familiar enough with the eastern slopes to suggest where these areas should be but they must be set aside first - before other decisions on land use are made. It is no use to allow, for example, logging, and then turn the area into a wilderness area. The damage has been done and it will never be the same again.

3. Located in the area under study are areas which are considered vital for the survival of game animals such as elk and bighorn sheep. These areas must be set aside undisturbed. However, in the ECA reports only game animals were considered as a valuable resource. No mention was made of habitat for grizzly or black bears, beaver, coyote, fox and a host of other animals found in the area. In my opinion it is important to ensure the habitats of these "non-economical" animals as well as those on which it is possible to put a price tag.

Once the land areas required for the three above-mentioned categories have been set aside, then, and only then, can the government decide on the use of the remaining land. There is much pressure to use this land for the extraction of renewable and non-renewable resources. In the process of this extraction often irreparable damage, both aesthetic and ecological, is done to the environment. I would like to say a few words about the three most serious industries causing environmental damage:

1. Logging. I was shocked to read in the ECA report that in the Oldman River Basin there are very few merchantable timber stands left and the ones there are will be exhausted in a decade. And this is supposedly a renewable resource! Whatever happened to sustained yield

forestry? Clearcut logging seems to be the standard logging method in the area. Perhaps if selective cutting had been used there would still be merchantable stands available in the area. Since there are so few stands left the impact from logging in the Oldman River Basin will presumably be small. However, the government should make regulations, e.g. no cutting adjacent to streams, to ensure that this is so. In other areas of the eastern slopes clearcut logging should be prohibited and replaced by selective cutting.

2. Coal mining. According to the inventory of resources in Alberta there are several areas in the eastern slopes with mineable coal deposits. The method used to recover these deposits would presumably be strip-mining. What must be decided is whether the permanent environmental and aesthetic damage done by such activity is worth the temporary monetary gain. According to Mr. R. D. Livingstone, the general manager of Lethbridge Collieries Ltd., speaking at the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists meeting held in Lethbridge June 2, "Reclamation is now an accepted part of mining practice."\* If Mr. Livingstone feels that land reclaimed after strip-mining is just as good as it was before, he is sadly mistaken. Anyone who has ever seen reclaimed strip-mined land knows it is impossible to put a mountain back together by piling the crushed rock and soil in a heap and attempting to grow grass and trees on it. It's like "curing a cancer with a band-aid".

3. Gas and oil exploration and extraction. Gas and oil exploration and extraction would seem to cause less permanent damage to the environment than either clearcut logging or strip-mining. However, the cutting of seismic roads every quarter mile is not aesthetically pleasing, and one wonders if it is totally necessary. Once these roads have served their purpose they should be closed to vehicular traffic and allow to return as much as possible to their original state.

---

\*Reported in Lethbridge Herald, June 4.

As far as the processing of these products is concerned, no natural gas plants or oil refineries should be allowed within the boundaries of the forest reserve. The possible environmental risks from these processes is just too great to allow them to be close to such a valuable resource as the eastern slopes of the Rockies.

Ms. J. Sheppard  
Box 102  
Pincher Creek, Alberta



1451

TELEPHONE (403) 453-3661

## INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

ROOM 203, KINGSWAY COURT — 11710 KINGSWAY AVENUE  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, T5G 0X5

July 13, 1973

Dr. Trost  
Chairman  
Environment Conservation Authority  
9912 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Dr. Trost,

The Indian Association of Alberta was hoping to present this brief at one of your public hearings, but was unable to do so. I trust that it will be given your full consideration.

It is obvious that important environmental issues need to be resolved and we are appreciative of your efforts in this regard.

Respectfully yours,

Harold Cardinal

HC/ams

cc: Premier Lougheed  
W. Yurko, Minister of Environmental Affairs



A BRIEF TO THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA  
TO  
THE ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
JULY 13, 1973

We come before you today encouraged and heartened by our recent audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who publicly on behalf of the Government of Canada, gave us the assurance that the agreements made between the native people of this land and the Crown would be fully honored and respected.

These agreements were made with the Crown before Alberta became a Province and there can be no doubt that the responsibility for upholding the intent of the original agreements falls upon the provincial, as well as the federal, government since both governments represent the Crown.

Our forefathers agreed to share this land with our white brothers and all others who followed their settlement. We accepted their new economy, culture, and religion and agreed to live side by side with them in peace.

An important element of this agreement was the promise that our people would be able to hunt and fish in the lands and rivers of Alberta "as long as the sun shines and the rivers flow". We have no doubt of the white man's sincerity and honesty in making such promises.

Since that time, however, subsequent events have brought many changes which have had the effect of limiting the livelihood of our people



by their native pursuits of hunting and fishing.

In the beginning, there was an abundance of wildlife for all and no one could foresee that the day would come when settlement and economic development would affect the habitat of the wildlife to the extent that its future preservation has become the concern of all of us.

The ecology of the prairies has been completely changed. Where once great herds of buffalo roamed at will and grazed on lush prairie grass, the land has been broken and grains for export now grow. The land is criss-crossed with wire fences and people are no longer free to roam at will. Albertans are regimented to asphalt and gravel roadways which make great ugly scars on the once beautiful prairie. Large cities and towns rise on the prairie skyline, belching polluting smoke into our once pure air and pouring polluting effluent into our pure Alberta rivers and streams. The land will never be the same, and all Alberta people must look back with some regret for the loss which all of us have suffered.

Mining, lumbering, oil production and other economic developments have progressively made inroads into the wilderness areas of Alberta, marring not only the natural beauty, but affecting the wildlife habitat as well. Our people no longer can exist by their native pursuits of hunting and fishing. They live largely by welfare support from the government because the game, which once existed in abundance, is gone and the sport hunting of all Alberta people must be severely curtailed and regulated.

It is not only the native society that suffers from these develop-

ments. Canadian society generally has awakened in recent years to the danger that unwise development has brought to this beautiful land. People everywhere are coming to know that the air and the waters are being polluted to a serious degree. All of us are affected and we are encouraged in the knowledge that others now know what we have always known, namely, that you cannot destroy nature except at terrible cost.

We are concerned about clean, pure water for all Canadians. Water is a precious heritage upon which all life depends. It is, therefore, imperative for all of us that our waters not be polluted at their source.

The Rocky Mountains are the source of Alberta's abundant water supply. From there, pure streams and rivers flow to the prairie lands. Even the irrigated farms, the ranches and the towns and cities which now have replaced the virgin prairie are dependent on these waters for their existence. The fish and wildlife of our mountain and foothills areas depend for their existence on the pure waters that flow therein.

It is also true that the east slope of the Rocky Mountains is a vital watershed which not only provides the source of our rivers and streams, but provides also a vital weather modifying effect necessary in preventing the prairies from becoming a desert. This vast forested area protects our prairies from becoming an arid wasteland. Our Canadian scientists are well aware of this and much good work has been done by the East Slopes Conservation Board.

We join forces with other Canadians who know that industrial development in the mountain and foothills area of our province can have no other effect

but to add to the pollution of our rivers at their source and disturb the watershed effect of the east slopes of the Rocky Mountains. It is our belief, shared by other Canadians, that the profits from industrial development in these areas can never repay the loss incurred, nor heal the wounds on nature that would result. Man, seldom, if ever, allows such wounds to heal. We need only remember the buffalo to understand this.

As people native to this land, we believe we have much to contribute to Canadian society, just as we have much to learn. The harmonious relationship which we have always had with nature, and the painful cost of nature's destruction are a lesson we can learn together.

As concerned Albertans and Canadians, we ask that the slopes of the Rocky Mountains be preserved for all; and the decision to do so should stand as a declaration of the Canadian people that we have learned the lesson that pollution and ecological damage teaches. The welfare of the natural environment should be the prime factor in land use policy. In this one remaining area of Alberta the promise of an abundance of wildlife for our people should be fully honored and our people should be free to hunt and fish for food. Hunting for sport purposes only should be limited and controlled.

Our stand is not a selfish one. We seek only the fulfillment of an agreement made, and the benefits for all Canadians that will come from learning the harsh lessons that nature teaches.

Together, your forefathers and ours shared this land, not for themselves, but for all future generations. It is our task in this generation to keep faith with that objective.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

A STUDY ON THE KANANASKIS WATERSHED OF THE BOW RIVER VALLEY

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN  
THE EASTERN SLOPES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Presented by:  
Members of Biology 20 & 30  
Springbank School  
R.R. #2, Calgary

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

<u>Page</u>	
1458	Introduction
1459	Geology
1461	Coal
1463	Watershed and Timber
1469	Wildlife
1476	Recreation
1478	Recommendations
1481	Appendix A
1482	Bibliography

THE KANANASKIS WATERSHEDINTRODUCTION

We are a group of high school students living in the Springbank area, just west of Calgary. We would like to take the opportunity the Environment Conservation Authority has given us to express our views on the future of the Kananaskis Valley situated in the front range of the Rockies about forty miles to the west of us. In our report, we have explored the various values and dispositions on the area and have made a list of recommendations at the back of the report which we feel would provide Albertans with the best use of the valley.

The Kananaskis Valley is a long, fairly broad tributary of the Bow River, with a total watershed drainage of some three hundred square miles. At present a highway (the south forestry road) runs through the valley from its junction with Highway 1 to Coleman in the Crowsnest Pass. Excellent access is thus provided to the many interesting aspects of the valley such as the Kananaskis and Barrier Lakes, fishing streams, hiking and horse trails, camping areas, the Snow Ridge ski area, innumerable cross-country ski areas, and motorized recreation areas.

This valley is exceptionally scenic and in fact was once a part of the earliest National Park system in the west. It supports a variety of wildlife from many species of birds to beaver, marmots, ground squirrels, pikas and large mammals such as black bear, moose, elk, deer, goat and sheep. Sport fishing has long been an important recreational use of the area, with its numerous lakes, streams and beaver ponds. The history of horse use, particularly for hunting, is long, and some of the trails leading out of and through the valley date back to early Indian and fur trading days. Later car camping and boating have been important recreational uses of the valley.

Besides its use for recreation, the Kananaskis Valley has other types of resources such as watershed, timber and some minerals such as gas and gypsum. However, coal seems to be the most important industrial

disposition in the valley, since several long seams run through the lower portion of the valley from approximately the west end of Barrier Lake through Marmot and Ribbon Creeks up into the Evans Thomas drainage. More smaller seams are located near the Kananaskis Lakes. Even though coal has been cited as an extremely valuable resource in the area, we feel that the watershed resource is even more important and should not be given second place in the decision on resource development in the area.

Therefore our report centers on an attempt to show how the valley could be put to multiple use but keeping in mind that watershed is the most valuable resource. We have tried to indicate which other resources could be utilized which are most compatible with watershed maintenance, the main one being recreation.

## 1. GEOLOGY

### A. Geological Formations

During the Upper Cretaceous, the Kananaskis region was subjected to folding and faulting which resulted in the Cascade coal basin. The rocks of this area are exclusively sedimentary, being predominately sandstones, shales and limestones. The most important layer is the Kootenay formation which was developed in the Lower Cretaceous age. It varies from 200 feet to 500 feet in thickness.

The mountains and foothills of the area form part of a huge anticline whose apex is at the British Columbia border. Glacial and glacio-fluvial activity have influenced some of the geological formations such as U-shaped valleys, drift deposits which have now resulted in valley terraces, moraines, kames and outwash plains.

Industrial activity has occurred in the valley from time to time to exploit the sand, gravel, and slate deposits there. Quarries for these occur throughout the valley.

#### B. Oil and Gas

Exploration for oil and gas has been going on within the Kananaskis area for many years. However, the costs of drilling in the mountainous terrain seem to have kept this activity to a minimum. Where exploration has occurred, access roads and seismic trails have been built, laying waste large amounts of timber and leaving the cut lines to erode. The oil and gas potential of the area is difficult to assess, although some gas has definitely been discovered in the southeast corner of the valley.

#### C. Gypsum

Of the mineral resources in the Kananaskis besides coal, gypsum probably has the most potential due to its scarcity in the province. A gypsum deposit is located on the west side of the lower Kananaskis Lake. This deposit at one time supported an active mine, which went bankrupt in the 1960's.

#### D. Coal

Due to the importance of coal in the valley, the discussion of it will be left to a separate section.

#### E. Recommendations

1. We strongly recommend that exploration in the area be done on horseback, by helicopter, or by foot so as to minimize damage to the landscape and wildlife in the area. Oil and gas development in the area, we feel, is not needed at the present time, and damage by pipelines and the building of plants is not acceptable in this beautiful and somewhat fragile valley. If the future requires the development of oil and gas from the mountains, we feel the government should set strict standards for its development and removal.
2. We recommend that the development of all minerals in the valley, including oil and gas, is not necessary at present, and that they should be developed only at a time of absolute need, and then only with a great deal of governmental control. Holding off on the development of these resources



also leaves time for the development of new ways to mine and develop resources. The Kananaskis area is an area of extreme beauty and parts of it, at least, are still wilderness. For it to be mined and industrially developed at present would be a great loss to the people of Alberta.

## 2. COAL

Industrialists, conservationists, tourists, hunters, and many other groups have interests in the Kananaskis-Bow River Basin area. These interests are not always compatible. Present-day concerns for the environment have produced a change of attitude towards such land disturbances as surface mining. Although the mining of coal has its potential for benefitting Albertans, there are inevitable environmental effects that must be considered.

Most of Alberta's coal resources are of bituminous and sub-bituminous rank, but coals of all ranks, from lignite to anthracite, are found here. Alberta is Canada's leading coal-producing province and has the greatest number of coal mines, although they are small mines with production of less than 25,000 tons per year. Within the Kananaskis valley the coal is bituminous to semianthracite, which is high-grade coking variety. Undoubtedly coal is the area's most valuable mineral resource. It runs in a long bed through most of the valley from Barrier Lake through the Evans Thomas area. Another deposit lies in the southeastern corner of the valley, near the Kananaskis Lakes.

Because of the economics involved, development of these seams would most likely be by strip mining. Stripping means that large areas of the valley would be destroyed, and that the watershed potential would be greatly impaired. Not only would erosion of the disturbed area pollute the waters of the Kananaskis, but mined coal has to be washed, befouling millions of gallons of water every year. Coal dust filtering from trucks along the haul route also leads to water pollution.

Apparently the new highway being built through the valley will not be strong enough to withstand the impact of large trucks. This means that if the Kananaskis coal deposits were developed a new road or rail line would have to be built, costing the taxpayers of Alberta millions of dollars. One suggested path for the new road or rail line would be through the Marmot Creek watershed study basin, and over a mountain ridge to Highway 1, by Pigeon Mountain. This would be an extremely devastating and costly route because of the rough and steep terrain.

Certain nutrients released by coal stimulate grasses to grow, and these grasses provide mountain pasture for elk and sheep. Stripping these areas for coal would therefore very adversely affect valuable sheep and elk ranges in the Kananaskis.

Looking at the economics of the situation, the Canadian Minerals Yearbook, 1970 tells us that nearly half of Alberta's coal is shipped to Japan. For this, Alberta receives \$0.10 per ton in royalties, plus the benefits from taxes, leases, and employee spending. However, with strip mining very few employees are needed compared to underground mining. Large machinery, usually all bought outside of Canada, performs most of the mining labors. The cost of hard roads or rail lines through the mountains often exceeds the economic benefits of the coal.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Since neighbouring Canmore mines, a well-established mining operation, had to lay off employees this past year because of an unsteady market, we do not feel that the coal deposits in the Kananaskis require developing for many years.
2. Canada uses very little coking coal at present, and is mainly using it as an export material. Sending raw, unprocessed materials out of the country is an economically questionable process.

3. Further exploration for coal should be done in a sensitive manner, using non-motorized vehicles, except perhaps for helicopters.
4. We feel that there is plenty of coal in the prairies, where reclamation is easy and far cheaper than in the mountains, to serve Alberta and even foreign markets for many years to come.
5. Since coal strip mining destroys the range of elk and sheep and impairs the watershed, we feel strip mining in the mountains should not be carried on.

### 3. WATERSHED AND TIMBER

The Kananaskis Valley has been an important region of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta throughout the history of man in this area of the mountains. Through the years it has been used for many purposes, but with proper management we feel it has even greater future potential.

One of the factors contributing to this potential is the location of the valley, 60 miles west of Calgary. This not only makes it valuable for recreation but also as a water resource area. The Kananaskis River runs through the Valley, draining three hundred square miles of land before dumping into the Bow River, Calgary's main water supply. Therefore the Kananaskis watershed is of the utmost importance as a source of pure, unpolluted water for those living downstream.

### 1. WATERSHED

The Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains is the source of most of the water used in the prairie provinces, particularly Alberta and Saskatchewan. It supplies 90 percent of the total flow of the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers. The Kananaskis is one of the major contributors to this flow. The average annual precipitation in the Kananaskis region

is about thirty-seven inches, of which fifty percent falls as snow at the lower elevations, increasing to seventy percent at the higher elevations. Run-off into the Kananaskis River accounts for fifty-seven percent of this annual precipitation.

Thus far one of the major developments in the Kananaskis is the establishment of dams and hydro-electric power plants on the Kananaskis River, by Calgary Power. In 1933 the first small storage dam was built to raise the level of the Upper Kananaskis Lake by 20 feet. This was followed by a larger dam in 1942 and by the construction of the Interlaked and Pocaterra power plants in 1955. Total generation capacity on the river is 32,800 kw or 10% of the capacity of the hydro plants on the Bow and its tributaries. The hydro plants are called into operation only to satisfy peak load demands. Therefore seasonal water scarcity presents no problems.

Apparently siltation of the reservoirs has not caused any concern on the part of Calgary Power, up to the present date. So far it is negligible. However, siltation of Barrier Lakes is a possible danger if any large-scale industrial development takes place above the lake.

Due to the lack of extensive development in the Kananaskis region, water is abundant and pure, making it very valuable to industrial and domestic users and wildlife in and around the Calgary area.

## II. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Kananaskis Valley is not an abundant source of merchantable timber. This is mainly due to the fact that much of the Kananaskis Valley was burnt in 1936. In the mountains tree growth is slow because of lack of fertile soil, a short growing season, cool climate and occasional summer drought. It takes over a hundred years for a new tree to grow to a suitable size for sawing into lumber. Even to produce pulpwood the tree must grow for 80 years or more. Today there are few big trees left in the Valley and the only real timber potential lies in the second growth lodgepole and the second growth spruce (spruce being the climax species of these forests).

At the present time the only active logging operation in the Kananaskis is in the Smith-Dorien portions of the drainage. All stands of merchantable timber (except small, isolated, inaccessible stands) are presently under licence. It is anticipated that all the timber will be removed from these licence areas in 1973.

There are three areas which contain merchantable quantities of timber which may be logged in the future; however, this must be confirmed by field inspections. These areas are:

- 1) Isle Creek Drainage, directly to the west of the Upper Kananaskis Lake.
- 2) The area around the Kananaskis lookout, east of the Upper Lake.
- 3) A small drainage directly to the north of the lower Kananaskis Lake.

The Evans Thomas Creek has some potential for the future in post-cutting. The problem that presently exists in this area is that some of the pine stands are extremely overstocked, therefore some stand improvement should be carried out if the potential is to be realized.

### III. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TIMBER AND WATERSHED

Timber is very closely connected with the maintenance of the watershed and the water quality. The forest acts as a water flow regulator, preventing destructive, wasteful floods and holding water on the surface and in the ground throughout the year. Good plant cover protects the soil from the erosive effect of excessive precipitation. It allows water to filter slowly downward as groundwater. Therefore, lumbering should be in harmony with the watershed.

### IV. EFFECTS OF LUMBERING ON WATERSHED QUALITIES

Well-managed timber operations do not usually cause erosion because ground vegetation and duff layer are still there after the trees have been removed. However, heavy cutting or clear-cutting over a large area should be avoided as this encourages erosion of the land, especially in

the mountains, by overland flow. This presents a danger to wildlife (especially fish) and reduces our sources of clean water. This type of lumbering also increases water yield and possibly the peak flow which often puts undue stress upon stream channels with resulting damage to both the channels and downstream structures.

Although the timber licence does establish an annual allowable cut, aimed at avoiding overcutting, supervision is essential to ensure that this regulation is followed. For the further protection of the watershed, it is a practice to reserve certain high elevation stands and a strip along streams. The high altitude forests which are in the heavy snowpack area (up to 50" precipitation with 30" as snowfall) are reserved to give shade, to delay snow-melt, and to dissipate the moisture by interception and transpiration. Therefore, all timber above an elevation of 6,500 feet, by rule of thumb, is reserved. This protects the higher areas within the Kananaskis.

Timber along streams in a varying width of 300 feet or less is reserved to protect the streambank, to avoid logging debris entering the stream, and for aesthetic purposes in recreational areas.

A large amount of damage can be caused by sedimentation from forest roads and skid trails. Damage occurs during or shortly after road construction and logging when soils are disturbed and exposed, before plant cover can provide adequate protection. The main cause of damage is poor logging on steep slopes, skidding up and downwards on slopes, roads that disrupt or change natural drainage channels, roads with steep gradients, and roads with inadequate drainage facilities to divert concentrated runoff from road surfaces.

The effects of erosion and sedimentation on the forest environment are many. Site deterioration occurs from the loss of surface soils and subsequently it is difficult to re-establish plant cover on the site. Loss of water quality is caused by increased suspension in streams, increased water temperatures, and reduced levels of dissolved oxygen in stream waters. These factors acting together or singly can adversely affect fish populations.



Aesthetic and recreational values of a landscape are reduced by the existence of unattractive logged areas, eroded roadways, and silt-laden streams. The causes and effects of erosion in forested lands can be reduced in most cases by careful planning and execution of road construction and logging operations.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual value of water on the three hundred and thirteen square miles of the Kananaskis drainage has been calculated to be \$80,000. This is the minimum value of water for domestic and industrial use only; it does not include the value for hydro power and recreation. The total value is much greater. Therefore, the conservation of the watershed is of primary concern. Any development which may disrupt the balance of the watershed should be seriously considered before any construction is started.

### 1. Industrial Development.

- a. As the present hydro power plants on the Kananaskis River are called into operation only to satisfy peak load demands, it appears that there is no immediate need for development in this area.
- b. The complex relationship existing between timber and watershed makes it necessary for extensive planning to be carried out before any logging in the area could be begun. The lack of suitable timber for lumbering in the area makes the development of large-scale lumbering operations in the regions seem impractical.

### 2. Recreational Development.

The use of the forest for recreation has increased considerably during the past few years and there does not seem to be any slackening of the pace. In past years, recreational use centered around the activities of camping, hunting and fishing. In recent years, activities such as skiing, hiking,

cycling, mountain climbing, sightseeing, picnicking, photography and nature study are normal occurrences. However, in order to protect the forest and watershed, some guidelines must be set down and followed.

1. Campsites should not be situated right beside a stream. Instead, a block of trees should be left between the stream and campsite. This would help to prevent contamination of the water caused by the excessive erosion resulting from the damage and eventual elimination of vegetative ground cover which occurs in nearly all campsites.
2. All outhouses should be situated, if possible, well away from drainage areas, preferably on clay base soil.
3. All the campsites should be maintained by caretakers to ensure the cleanliness and good condition of the campsites.
4. All development, commercial or otherwise, should be strategically located so that the least amount of damage will be done to the watershed and the quality of the water can be retained.
5. Supervision of the area should be carried out in order to ensure that people are not abusing it. Examples: littering or defacing trees.

These guidelines are only a small portion of those that will be required to ensure maintenance of the watershed and the quality of the water. For water is becoming an increasingly important commodity and will become even more important in the future, especially high quality, unpolluted water such as the Kananaskis has to offer. It is a very valuable resource and we cannot let it slip into uselessness by polluting it, as we have let so many others of nature's gifts already.



#### 4. WILDLIFE

##### A. Animals

Animal life has suffered as man has made progress. The clearing of forests, the draining of swamps, the damming of rivers, the stripping of mountains, and other steps taken for the development of agriculture, mining, and industry have been of great benefit to civilization when these activities were wisely planned. But one of the bad results has been the disappearance of much wild animal life because of destruction of natural homes.

Important as it is in providing a commercial resource, wildlife is of even greater monetary value to the country because of the attraction it offers people on holidays.

Lured to the Kananaskis area by wildlife, the tourist enables many surrounding towns, villages, and service centres to exist. Work is given people in hotels and camps; guides are needed, and there is a big turnover in ammunition, camp equipment, canoes, photographic supplies, food, holiday clothing and all the other goods which enter into vacationing.

Wildlife in the Kananaskis area is in delicate balance with the mountain goat already falling towards rarity as man has destroyed its habitat.

The destruction by logging and strip mining seems to have the greatest effect on this balance. Trees provide cover, food and homes for a large majority of the animals. Along with strip mining, logging will have the effect of encouraging flooding, and erosion which is detrimental to the fish and wildlife's existence.

Many people think that putting a fence around wildlife areas is an effective method of conservation. The responsibility of management must be accepted, and management must be carried out with the best knowledge to be had, applied to long-range planning.

With careful management of existing wildlife and restrictions on further commercial development, the Kananaskis area must be maintained as an example of human-animal compatibility. We must grasp this area now and preserve our greatest natural resource.

Contained in the Kananaskis watershed is a variety of large and small mammal wildlife. These range from moose, deer and goat, to pikas and marmot.

Moose - The moose is the largest member of the deer family, weighing from 950 to 1,000 pounds when fully grown. They are distinguished from other cloven-hoofed animals by their large size and dark color. Their food is mainly willow, birch, poplar and other woody and shrub vegetation. In summer they can be found in shallow beaver dams and lakes, where they feed on water plants.

Wapiti-These animals are buckskin in color, with a pale yellowish rump patch surrounding a short white tail; head, neck and legs are darker than body. The large backward and upward sweeping antlers characterize the bull elk. Their weight averages 700 to 1,000 pounds. Grasses, herbs, twigs and bark form the bulk of the elk diet. Elk are found in partly open woodlands throughout the foothills and eastern slopes of the Rockies.

Mule Deer- are colored brownish-grey. They have a white rump patch which surrounds a white rope-like tail with a black tip. Large mule-like ears are responsible for their name. The average weight of the adult is 200 to 250 pounds. Mule deer are mainly browsers, consuming tree foliage, twigs, sagebrush, and small boughs of aspen, willow and other plants; grasses and herbs are also eaten. The mule deer is considerably more plentiful in the Kananaskis area than the white-tailed deer.

Mountain Goat - have long shaggy white coats. Long white hair on the chin forms a distinctive beard. Permanent short, spiky horns curve up and back from the head and appear on both sexes. They weigh 175 to 300 pounds. Their hard cloven hooves with interior soft pads enable the goats to scale seemingly impossible rock cliffs. They spend most of the summer on high rocky crags, eating tender alpine grasses and shrubs.

Very few goats remain in the Kananaskis area as mining exploration has driven the shy animals from several natural ranges.

Rocky Mountain Sheep- are amber to greyish brown in color. They have a small brown tail surrounded by a white rump patch. Rams' horns are massive spirals which curve back, down and forward from the head. Rams average about 200 to 340 pounds. Food consists of various grasses, hedges, herbs and browse. The sheep range is limited to the Rocky Mountains, where they appear to prefer the high meadows and rock areas above "tree-line". The strip mining in the Ribbon, Martin, and Evans Thomas has removed the graze from the coal-rich seams on the slopes of several mountains. An attempt to regrass the area in 1970 seems to have had little effect three years after the planting. A small herd of sheep are attempting to subsist on the sparse grass on the strip mining site on Mt. Allan.

Black Bears - are the smallest of all the North American bears. The average weight is 200 to 350 pounds. Though most black bears are entirely black, an occasional animal has a brown patch on its nose or a patch of white on the chest. In addition, some varieties of black bears have brown fur and are called "cinnamon" bears. In the wild, black bears eat berries, roots, small mammals and grasses. The tourist-tamed bears, however, are reduced to fat pesty moochers. The introduction of human garbage dumps has eliminated the bears' natural quest for food. With few exceptions the wild bears seldom bother the human. The tame bears, however, have lost the fear of man and many conflicts occur.

Grizzly Bear - is much larger and heavier than the black bear and sometimes weighs as much as 1,000 pounds. It also has a more savage disposition. Grizzlies can be brownish yellow, grey or silver-tip, reddish brown or cinnamon. The grizzly bear has long curved claws and has a hump on its shoulders. In the wild they feed on berries, roots, grasses and larger or smaller animals. When closely associated with man and man's garbage, grizzlies lose their fear of man. Many tragic incidents occur where man has invaded the bears' habitat. Black bears range fairly close to human encroachments while the grizzly tends to retreat deeper into the woods as man appears.

Marmots and Pikas - generally live high in mountain areas and feed on grasses, insects, berries and mosses of the alpine meadows.

#### B. FISH

The Kananaskis area has abundant water resources and tables for fishing. The Kananaskis River has many tributaries which are suitable for stocking. Beaver ponds, lakes and cool, clear mountain streams make ideal locations for fish. Last summer this area was stocked with 128,000 fish. These were fingerling and yearling Eastern Brook, Rainbow, and cutthroat trout. We feel this is a recommendable practice and should be carried out to a more regular and greater extent. Fishing is an ancient practice and is still an enjoyable recreation. Many more tourists would come and return to Alberta if fishing were improved.

The areas stocked last summer are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Size</u>
Kananaskis Beaver Dams	24,850	Eastern Brook	fingerling
Lillian Lake	5,000	Cutthroat	fingerling
Lower Gallates	3,000	Cutthroat	fingerling
Lower Kananaskis Lake	54,040	Rainbow	fingerling
Maude Lake	2,000	Cutthroat	fingerling
Ribbon Lake	7,000	Cutthroat	fingerling
Three Isle Lake	20,000	Cutthroat	fingerling
Upper Kananaskis Lake	12,460	Rainbow	yearling

#### C. BIRDS

Alberta is well endowed with wild gallinaceous fowl known collectively as upland game birds, due mainly to a wide range of environmental conditions which provide ideal food and cover for the various species. The muskegs, coniferous forests, parklands, mountains and prairies all provide the necessary habitat for one or more of the eight native and three "intro-

duced" species found in the province. Some of the native grouse and ptarmigan have evolved into varieties or sub-species more adapted to live in areas where the root species would not normally live.

We will now describe the game birds (and some of their aspects) which are found in and around the Kananaskis area.

#### WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN

The white-tailed ptarmigan is a small grouse mottled with browns, blacks, and whites in summer. It shows white wings and tail in flight and in winter is entirely white. Its range is in the mountains of western North America from Alaska to Mexico. It breeds throughout this range. The nests are made of grasses and feathers and are found on the ground. There are usually six to eight eggs which are buffy with fine spots of darker browns. The white-tailed ptarmigan's diet consists mainly of berries, weed and grass seeds. However, during the deep snows of winter, they may migrate to lower elevations and feed upon domestic grains. The white-tailed ptarmigan is found only in high elevations. The young remain motionless until the mother clucks an 'all clear'.

#### SPRUCE GROUSE

The spruce grouse is a very small, dark grouse found in thick stands of spruce and pine. They range generally throughout the conifer forests of Alberta. Its nests of leaves and grasses are in the moss under low-hanging branches of a spruce tree. Eggs, 8 to 10 or 16, are usually light brown, beautifully marked with dark browns. In the winter much of their diet is made up of conifer needles. During the summer they eat on the ground of insects, leaves and berries.

The spruce is a sub-specie of the Franklin grouse. At the approach of an enemy they flutter into the branches of a conifer, relying on their protective coloration and immobility to make them inconspicuous. Also known as "Fool Hen".

#### BLUE GROUSE

The overall color is slate grey, darkest in the back, somewhat brownish on wings, white on the throat and abdomen, white tips on feathers

on sides and under tail coverts, tail black, occasional grey terminal band with a small yellowish comb over eye. They are fairly common throughout the mountain regions of Alberta. Their nests of grass, leaves, and pine needles are found near fallen logs or the foot of a tree. There are 5 to 10 buffy eggs finely spotted with brown.

During the summer months the diet consists of berries and small insects, in the winter mainly buds and conifer needles. In the spring the male struts about like a turkey cock, occasionally pausing to fill his nuchal sacs to emit a guttural hoot. Both adult and young are quite tame, but if alarmed, take off with a startling suddenness in flight.

#### RUFFED GROUSE

Head crested, a ruff of glossy black feathers on each side of the neck, fairly long tail with a black band near tip of tail are the most prominent markings of this bird. It is more solitary in its habits than any other species of grouse; small family groups may be found in early fall but these soon break up. In the spring the male displays upon a log. "Ruffs" extended, wings trailing and tail spread from time to time he beats his wings against the air to produce a noise like the muffled roll of a drum. Occasionally he may drum in fall.

The ruffed grouse is found in forested regions throughout Alberta. The nest of leaves and grass is usually near or under a fallen log or root. There are 8 to 14 buff unspotted eggs. Diet is varied; in the winter it consists of poplar and willow buds, domestic grains and rose hips; in summer and autumn of weed seeds, grain and quantities of green vegetation.

#### D. HUNTING

Hunting in the Kananaskis area has been a concern of our group. The number of access roads allow for blanket hunting in which large numbers of animals are shot.

A wildlife management officer should be permanently employed to gather information concerning numbers of animals, health of herds, and their location. With this information hunting should be greatly restricted



to preserve depleting herds, but also to be flexible enough to ensure healthy numbers in overpopulated herds. The bulk of the culling in herds should be handled by trained wildlife officers rather than trophy hunters.

The Kananaskis area should be under local wildlife rules to adapt to changing local fish and game conditions.

It has not been entirely hunting that has limited the numbers of particularly sheep and goats. The indiscriminate use of sheep and goat ranges for mining purposes has practically destroyed the delicate feed range in many parts of the Rockies, and we would not like to see this happen in the Kananaskis.

#### E. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Owing to the fact that the Kananaskis has a wide range of eco-systems it can support a variety of wildlife.

With man's movement into the area the balance of nature is severely endangered. In order for the animals to co-exist with man and form the luring point for tourism, special management steps must be taken. We would like to propose the following points to ensure the safety and health of existing wildlife.

1. More regular and extensive stocking of fish in the waters of the Kananaskis to ensure constant and healthy numbers where natural and human conditions threaten the balance.
2. Careful management of large mammal herds by wildlife officers to ensure large and healthy herds.
3. Land usage regulations to ensure proper land usage in important animal ranges.
4. Reclamation of present disrupted areas to their former state, (especially grazing).
5. Local fish and game controls rather than decentralized provincial control.

6. Restricted use of access roads and encouragement of natural hiking trails.
7. A permanently appointed wildlife staff to gauge the progress of present wildlife conditions.
8. Complete removal of human garbage to enable wild animals to maintain their natural foraging needs.
9. More game officers to enforce hunting and fishing regulations, and to protect both wildlife and fish population.
10. Encouragement of outfitters in the valley for hunting and also for summer horse and backpacking trips.

F. RECREATION:

The recreation potential for the valley is great since it is essentially still wild and scenic, has a great variety of interests to recreationists, and is so close to Calgary. It could become an important diversion for tourists and recreationists in general from the overcrowded National Parks. Since tourism is expected to soon become Alberta's number 2 industry, the Kananaskis could, if left in its scenic splendor, provide a great contribution to the entertaining of tourists. Most tourists coming to Canada and Alberta want to see undisturbed areas, free from commercialization, pollution, and the hassle of city life. They come to seek solitude in a peaceful setting, and to take part in primitive forms of recreation. The Kananaskis has provided and could continue to provide the environment for this type of recreation.



A paved highway, routed in a scenic manner (not a super-freeway) could greatly enhance the availability of this recreation area.

Types of recreation which would preserve the natural state of the valley, conserve the watershed, and allow the natural animal herds to thrive in peace would be fishing, horseback riding, boating, canoeing, downhill skiing (Snow Ridge) and cross-country skiing. The mountains of the area provide some of Alberta's best climbing. The potential for sports fishing is high. More trails could be constructed, and old ones re-opened for trail riding, hiking and cross-country skiing. A series of Youth Hostels similar to the one at Ribbon Creek could only enhance the use of the area for young people.

For car campers, more facilities are needed, but these should be of such a nature as to preserve the natural beauty of the area, and to give these campers the maximum feeling of wilderness camping. Small campsites with plenty of trees are the most enjoyable. The location of pit toilets should be on clay soils and as far as possible from the water supply. More cookhouse facilities and picnic tables would be welcomed, but we feel that we should not be catering to the highly mechanized camper in this valley. Therefore we do not feel that electric and sewer hookups for trailers and camper trucks are necessary.

In order to preserve the purity of the water we feel that summer cabin sites should not be leased, and that those in existence at the Kananaskis Lakes should be phased out.

Motorized, off-the-road vehicles should be discouraged as they damage the watershed and the pasture for the game. They contribute to erosion of hillsides, delay the healing of old road and seismic cuts, harass wildlife, and greatly detract from the wilderness experience of hikers, skiers, climbers, and fishermen. We would like to see more emphasis placed on forms of recreation that contribute to the health of Canadians, forms that exercise the body and allow it to take in good, clean air.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. For Watershed and Timber

Since watershed is the most valuable resource of the Valley, all other types of resources should be developed or not developed in accordance with maintaining the watershed. Most of the timber in the Valley is immature; therefore there is little logging potential for the near future. Any logging done near streams should be kept to a minimum, leaving at least several hundred feet of timber along these areas in order to preserve watershed and aesthetic values. Logging which is carried on should be done in a sensitive manner, making certain that large clearcuts do not occur, or that access roads and large equipment do not impair watershed or aesthetic values. Only resources such as non-facility-oriented recreation which does not concentrate large numbers of people in small areas (thus producing pollution), wildlife and fishery maintenance, and even controlled cattle grazing should be allowed in the watershed.

### B. For Mineral Extraction

Development of natural gas in the area could, if done in a controlled, sensitive manner, be done in such a way as to preserve the watershed and aesthetics of the Valley. However, due to the high costs of drilling in the mountains, the production of gas in the Kananaskis should likely remain minimal. Coal is the most important mineral in the Valley, and due to the costs of production, stripping rather than underground production seems to be the method of extraction favored by the coal companies for the area. Coal strip mining is not compatible with the maintenance of a clean, productive water supply due to pollution of waters running through the mine, haul road erosion, and coal washing. Stripping is not compatible with the aesthetics of the Valley and would severely detract from its recreation values. Stripping for coal would also ruin many of the best sheep and elk ranges, especially in the Ribbon, Marmot and Evans

Thomas drainages where good grassland and coal seams occupy the same ground. Further since the high-grade coking coal in the mountains is essentially all shipped out of Canada, and since strip mining employs few men, and large, expensive machinery (foreign-built) and requires costly haul roads or railroads through mountainous terrain, we feel the economics involved in developing coal mines in the Kananaskis are far outweighed by the values of leaving it in the ground.

#### C. Wildlife

More regular and extensive fish stocking programs should be embarked upon for lakes and streams in the Kananaskis where fishing pressure is high and the fish cannot naturally keep their numbers up, as is the case with certain of the smaller lakes like Lillian and the beaver ponds along the road. There should be greater government management available for maintaining sport fishing in the area. The Kananaskis has great potential for hunting and wildlife observation, but we feel the existing large mammal herds in the valley need more management, in order to keep their numbers up, to keep them free from diseases, and especially to ensure they have adequate summer and winter ranges.

#### D. For Recreation

Most forms of recreation in the valley require the preservation of the natural, wild, and scenic aspects of the valley. The forms of recreation we advocate are those compatible with maintaining the valuable supply of pure water, as mentioned before.

In view of the fact that the Valley is so close to Calgary, it would continue to provide an excellent playground for city dwellers. The Kananaskis Valley also offers an excellent diversion of recreationists from the overcrowded national parks. We would like to see more facilities for car campers beside the road, but would like to have these camp areas kept small, be treed, and be of such a nature as to encourage primitive

forms of car camping. Even though we think there should be more cook-house facilities, and adequate pit toilets located well away from streams, we feel there should be no facilities for highly mechanized camping as trailer electric and sewer hook-ups.

Motorized forms of recreation should be discouraged as off-the-road vehicles lead to trail erosion, thus damaging the watershed. Snowmobiles and trail-bikes destroy the solitude for those seeking an escape from the noisy, polluted city, and often lead to harassment of game. Motorboats on the large resevoirs are one of the sources of pollution of the waters of the Kananaskis.

We would like to support the aims and objectives of the Youth Hostels organization, and support their proposals for more hostels similar to the one at Ribbon Creek for the rest of the Valley. We also support the proposal of the Alberta Wilderness Association for the large Wildlife Recreation Area, the Elbow-Sheep, bordering the eastern section of the Valley, and for a smaller wildland area taking in the spectacular alpine area above the Kananaskis Lakes.

Further "road improvement" should be of a more sensitive aesthetic nature, keeping in mind that most people using the road will be using it to enjoy the scenery, not as a commercial artery where speed is necessary. However we would like to see the road paved to provide people with better access to the area, and enable the Snow Ridge ski development to be operational.

This Valley is too valuable to be left to haphazard development, and too fragile to withstand intensive multiple use. Therefore we recommend that non-consumptive uses, compatible with watershed maintenance, particularly non-facility oriented recreation, be its main uses.

APPENDIX A

List of Contributing Authors:

1. Geology Section - Jane Lewis and Terry Hodgson - grade 11
2. Coal Section - Cheryl Mehlen - grade 11; Jeff Warner and Jennifer Lowther - grade 12
3. Timber - Calvin Rudiger and Larry Smith - grade 11
4. Watershed - Jacqueline Dale, Barbara Sanders and Diane McKendrick - grade 12  
- Joanne Swartz and Lois Romney - grade 11
5. Recreation - Linda McLennan, Linda Hansford, Dan Scott, Mike Fitzsimmons, Glen McMurray, Warren Smart, Dean Peckover, and Tom Neufeld - grade 11
6. Wildlife - Jamie Cullen and Owen Michaluk - Grade 12

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Kalladay, I.A.R. and D.H. Mathewson. A Guide to the Geology of the Trans-Canada Highway between Calgary, Alberta and Revelstoke, British Columbia. September 1971.
2. Hanson, W.R. Conserving a Watershed Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board, with the assistance of Alberta Department of Lands and Forests, Calgary. 1971(?).
3. Forestry Report, Volume (?), Number 5. Canadian Forestry Service. Northern Forest Research Centre, Edmonton. December 1971.
4. Hanson, W.R. & Tunstell, G. Forest and Water Conservation Watershed Management on the East Slopes of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board, Calgary. June, 1962.
5. Alberta Forests, The Department of Lands and Forests, Alberta Forest Service, in co-operation with The Bureau of Public Affairs. 1973.
6. Calgary Regional Planning Commission, Land Use and Resource Development in the Eastern Slopes: Bow River Watershed Basin, Environment Conservation Authority, Edmonton. May 1973.
7. Defending all Outdoors, Alberta Fish and Game Association, Volume 5. December 1971.
8. Wildlife Booklet, Department of Lands and Forests. 1972.
9. Conservation of Wildlife, The Royal Bank of Canada. July 1947, May 1965.

10. Wildlife, World Book Encyclopedia. 1967.
11. Bears, World Book Encyclopedia. 1967.
12. A Choice of Land Use Alternatives, The Conservation and Utilization Committee Task Force on the East Slopes Hearings.
13. Coal Mines in Canada, Department of Mines & Technical Surveys, Ottawa. 1960 Edition.
14. Canadian Minerals Yearbook, Mineral Resources Branch - Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa. 1970.
15. Canadian Underground Mine Haulage, Mineral Resources Division, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa. 1965.
16. Surface Mining Practice in Canada, Amil Duanie, Mining Research Centre. 1972.

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by Bow Valley Naturalists' Club.

We feel that land use decisions made today must be carefully considered so as to leave the greatest range of options open to future generations of Albertans.

The three functions of the East Slopes which we feel are of utmost importance are:

1. Watershed protection;
2. Protection of wildlife resources and habitat.
3. Provision for wildland and outdoor recreation. Remember that the East Slope parallels the major population corridor of Alberta, from Edmonton to Lethbridge.

Development of resources should only be permitted if the integrity of these values will not be impaired. Development must be preceded by coherent environment impact studies, by careful cost-benefit analysis, and in the case of particularly sensitive projects, public hearings.

Following are some further thoughts pertaining to the East Slopes:

1. Wilderness Areas. We support the areas established by the present Wilderness Areas Act and request further development of this system to include areas outside of the Rockies, especially in the north and on the plains. We support the concept of Wildland Recreation Areas proposed by the Alberta Wilderness Association with its prohibition of resource extraction and motorized access. We support the specific proposals of the A.W.A. for the Sheep-Elbow Wilderness, the nine Wildland Recreation Areas and the Willmore Wilderness park.



2. Recreation. We request much closer intergovernment co-operation in regional planning and in establishing an integrated recreation policy which would include the national parks.

3. Buffer Zones. We stress the need for buffer zones adjacent to the national parks in order to maintain ecological continuity. For example: planning for the Canmore must account for the migration of big game to and from Banff National Park.

4. Land Ownership. We urge that Crown land not be sold for private resource or recreational development. A system of leases with proper safeguards will ensure that the public retains the greatest range of choices. As far as recreational projects are concerned, we feel that only the land needed for actual development should be controlled by the developer.

5. Roads. We support the upgrading and paving of the Eastern Slopes Forestry Road but deplore the unnecessarily high design standards used to date in the Kananaskis valley. We strongly urge that further work on this road take a sensitive, sensible approach to constructing a scenic recreation highway.

6. The Yammuska. We recommend that, because of its unique natural features, the area at the foot of Mr. Yammuska be protected either as part of the proposed South Ghost Wildland Recreation Area, or as a natural area within the Bow Valley provincial park. We recognize the growing importance of outdoor education and suggest that this area could serve that purpose admirably.

*Gerry Goseland*

Age 13  
1424-21 St. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2N 2L9

*H. L. Nielsen*

Box 437, Banff

*Gerry Goseland*

1424-21 St. N.W., Calgary T2N 2L9

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Submitted by: W.J. Waslenchuk and J. Waslenchuk.

According to one press account, there have been 31 proposals by speculators bent on turning the Canmore Corridor into a valley of gold. If even half of the schemes become reality, writes Ken Hull in the Calgary Herald (May 19/73), this narrow strip of semi-wilderness beauty would be transformed into a commercial jungle.

With lamentable exceptions, this land is owned by the Crown. We urgently petition the Crown to define our resources in this Corridor: our extractive and irreplaceable riches such as coal, oil, limestone; our precious watersheds nourishing much of downstream Alberta and some of Saskatchewan; the unique geological features; the forests; the delicate vegetation; the vanishing wild creatures; and all of this flavored with the magical ingredient of history, folklore and Indian legend. When this precious heritage is fully assessed and defined, then, and only then, can it be managed for present and future human benefit.

This we beseech the Government of Alberta to do .

That the bulldozer, driven by unbridled profiteers, may not destroy irreplaceable benefits to the Alberta people, we urge that the following proposed developments NOT be allowed to take place.

FIRST

Banff Recreational Park proposed by Wilder Enterprises. The name itself is an unabashed attempt to cash in on Banff Park's reputation. Would strangers to the area know that they were not in the Park? This 1,500 acres between the Park Gates and Harvie Heights is a beautiful region of delicate vegetation, and a migratory zone for animals from Banff Park. It is used extensively as a hiking and cross-country ski area by the people of Harvie Heights and Canmore.

The residents of Harvey Heights are having difficulty in establishing a ready and steady water supply. How then does Wilder Enterprises propose to supply a swimming pool, a public laundry and shower centre, a 200-room hotel, a campground, a 36-hole golf course?

How can a 36-hole golf course fit into 1,500 acres? Would it not take 3,000 acres?

The proposed airstrip on a bench at 4,000 feet is considered unsafe. It would certainly be an abomination to the residents, the visitors and the wildlife of the area. The established Springbank airfield is only thirty minutes away.

We urge buffer zones between the Banff Park boundaries and all developments, as well as between each development, and consider this area between the Park and Harvey Heights to be the most important transitional zone of all.

We urge that the creation of such buffer zones become established by provincial law.

## SECOND

Among developments that should not be allowed to take place are urban growths such as Mount Rundle Village, proposed by Wexco Petroleum Calgary, on the lower slopes of Mt. Rundle between Canmore and the east boundary of Banff National Park. Should this come about, another transitional zone is lost, another green strip bulldozed. Rundle Village has been described as a possible satellite of Calgary, with fast transportation to the city. Of what benefit would this be to the town of Canmore? To the forest reserve, the wilderness concept? Of what benefit to anyone except the Company? Do the profits get ploughed back into the corridor, or do they go into private pockets or out of the country?

We support the stand of the Calgary District Planning Commission that Canmore should be the urban centre of the corridor, and that there should be no further urban developments.

We urge that the Dillingham Corporation of the United States not be allowed to develop its 6,000 acre holdings on Rundle Mountain. It has been reported that Dillingham plans a commercial development of up to 110,000 population. Where would these city dwellers go to get away from the city? Where see a wild animal or a wild flower?

We oppose the proposed developments of Boma Holdings Limited on Lady MacDonald Mountain as another urban lot on the wilderness.

THIRD

We oppose all strip mining in the corridor, with particular reference to the proposals of CANPAC MINERALS. CANPAC has 29,000 acres lying within the Bow River Basin. The extent of the company is strip mining. Dr. Buff, a visiting scientist from the United States, says that Alberta will soon become a poor and depressed area similar to West Virginia and Kentucky if strip mining is allowed to continue. Such land, he says, cannot be reclaimed. So much topsoil, humus, and soil substructure is removed that in about four years the reclamation deteriorates. Such land is dangerous to walk on because crevasses usually occur. Companies like strip mining, said Dr. Buff, because it is more profitable, but only deep mining should be allowed. The coal should be used in steel production in order to stabilize the economy and provide long-range jobs and benefits to the community and the country. (From the press, and CBC radio May 29/73.)

It is also a matter of concern that Mr. Marshall, speaking for CANPAC at the Canmore Hearings, made no mention of how the coal would be transported from the wilderness to the railway.

FOURTH

We oppose the submission of Mr. Wishart of the Canadian Petroleum Association for multiple and optimum use of all natural resources in the Corridor. This could become a gigantic strip-ping operation entirely without boundaries that would leave no plant or animal life, and reduce the quality of human life. Mr. Wishart said that the province would gain \$500 million from future developments in the area. When asked from the floor (Canmore) what the profits to the company would be, he said he didn't know. This was greeted with irreverent laughter from the audience.

FIFTH

We oppose the Assiniboia development proposed by Underwood, McLellan and Associates of Calgary on the grounds that three ski areas within fifteen miles of Canmore have already become defunct. There are three smaller enterprises already wanting to go into the area, and the last traces of wilderness could well be eliminated by bulldozer, including the gashing of access roads. Such access would increase the pressure of civilization on Mt. Assiniboia Park. Roads serving private interests are too often paid for by the taxpayer, and such would certainly be the case were an approach to Assiniboia to be put through Canmore.

SIXTH

An airstrip anywhere in the Corridor would be an unconscionable ravagement, and a blatant concession to an elitist group.

SEVENTH

We support the upgrading and paving of the Eastern Slopes Forestry Road but deplore the unnecessarily high design standards used to date in the Kananaskis Valley. We urge that further work on this road take a sensitive, sensible approach to constructing a scenic recreational highway.

To sum up, we feel that the three functions of the Eastern Slopes that are of the utmost importance are:

1. Watershed protection
2. Protection of wildlife resources and habitat
3. Provision for wildland and outdoor recreation

Therefore, development of resources should only be permitted if the integrity of these values will not be impaired. Development must be preceded by coherent environmental impact studies, by careful cost-benefit analysis, and in the case of particularly sensitive projects, public hearings.

In conclusion, we urge that all crown Lands in the Corridor be kept in the hands of the government of the people of Alberta so that, in close co-operation with the residents of the area, there may be master planning of this threatened semi-wilderness area. The sole purpose of such planning should be to raise the quality of life for the residents of the Corridor, and for all Albertans, their children and their grandchildren.

We concur with all of the above statements:

J. Waslenchuk.

(Business) Banff.

Judy Waslenchuk, Banff

School Trustee

Chairman, Recreation Board

Harry Fair, Box 211

Craft Fair

At  
Dartmouth.

G. Hartfield

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by Jeff Lickiss.

We have been provided with an opportunity to express our views on land use and resource development in the foothills and mountain areas of the province of Alberta and I wish to submit my opinions through this written brief. In order that you may better understand my position I would like to give you some of the background of my experience which motivated me in preparing this submission. My first real contact with the study area came some 13 years ago on a deer hunt to the foothills. Since then I have seen most of the country between Waterton Park on the south to the Cardinal River in the north as a hunter, big game guide, trail rider, hiker and camper. I have lived for up to three and a half months of the year in a tent camp in the mountains and have come to appreciate the forests, the wildlife, the magnificent beauty and all-encompassing solitude of this rough and rugged country. I support, or have supported, various sportsmen's and conservationist organizations in the province and abroad for many years and am greatly concerned over past abuses and possible future destruction of the irreplaceable resources of our wilderness.

While I personally tend to view recreational use of the study area from a hunter-hiker-camper point of view, I can easily understand and appreciate the wants and desires of the fisherman, the overnight camper, the outdoor photographer, the bird and wildlife watcher and many others who enjoy different facets of nature. Like most people I also appreciate the modern conveniences of electricity, petroleum products and natural gas, the necessity of lumber products and the desirability of good, grass-fed beef, all of which are the results of industrial developments in the area under discussion at these hearings. ALL the various uses of the eastern slopes have good points and drawbacks and we are being asked to decide how many of the detrimental factors we will accept in view of the benefits we receive. Since it is



nearly impossible for each individual to research, analyse and formulate conclusions on each and every detail of the proposed developments and land uses I shall outline my desires for the study area in general and comment on specific proposals after.

Being realistic, I believe a primary consideration of use and development in the study area MUST be towards the agricultural and industrial aspects. People must have jobs and income or the recreational and conservation proposals would be of value to very few. We must then, to maintain our standard of living and our way of life, accept these activities but we should not allow them to become the dominant factor to the detriment of all others as has been done in past years. We must show much greater concern for the impact these developments have on our environment than we have done since industry blossomed out in the province. We have many examples of what happens to an area in which industrial, agricultural or recreational developments clash with wildlife and wilderness values. The Castle River, once prime wildlife habitat, was thrown open to lumbering, seismic and mineral exploration and recreational developments on such a scale that the damage done by the fires of many years ago pale to insignificance in comparison to the work of the bulldozer. Besides two main highways up the branches of the river there are bulldozed roads up nearly every creek and into the basins and ridges, well above timberline. What used to be good wildlife environment has deteriorated into an industrialist and tourist playground. I seriously doubt it was necessary to mismanage BOTH branches of this river as well as the strip of foothills to the east. It is obvious that exploitation was the dominant factor in this case and wildlife and wilderness considerations were relegated to an afterthought. This should never be allowed to happen again.

I suppose that most hunters, fishermen and wilderness wanderers have at one time or another felt a great pang of disappointment and regret at finding an oil well in some favorite hunting area, or a logging



road across a particularly beautiful meadow, or a cutline eroding into an isolated fishing hole. No doubt they wondered as I have done on many occasions just why man's greed has to take such a negligent and destructive approach. These operations, however, take a back seat to strip mining and its associated supporting operations as the most incompatible of all uses of the study area. Strip mining is highly destructive, causes pollution of air, water and soil and leaves an irreparable scar on the landscape which neither nature nor man can ever rehabilitate. It is my contention that while other forms of industrial development may be accepted as a primary use of the eastern slopes strip mining must be prohibited regardless of the economic considerations simply because the benefits received are not worth the detriments regardless of how strict are the laws governing the industry. If underground mining isn't economical at the present time I would suggest we wait until the price of coal makes it practical and develop the coal fields accordingly.

In preparing this brief I thought I would list a few principles that I would like to have included in any management policies of the study area in general. Our most crying need is for a government which recognizes and actively supports the need for conserving or protecting tracts of land for other reasons than a dollar can be made by exploiting the mineral wealth or petroleum deposit it may contain. While the industrialists may prove it pays to drill or scrape or gouge, and the recreational developer may prove it pays to build and promote and expand, the conservationist can only point to a stimulation of the senses and the resultant state of mind as the big reward for his efforts. The benefits of a clean, steady water supply have a monetary value but I believe these people enjoy the natural surroundings to a much greater degree. You can't reduce aesthetics to a monetary factor but their values must be given equal consideration in all cases. A few years ago the Swan Hills, home of the rare Emperor grizzly bear, was opened for oil exploration and development, resulting in thirty million dollars a year

income to the province. I wonder just how important this source of income is and whether we would suffer greatly if it wasn't there. With this great bear on the verge of extinction I think we may well wish in years to come that we had left their refuge undisturbed. Once such a species is gone it is gone for all time and thirty million dollars a year won't replace it.

We also need a responsible government that will act with more thought for the future than what we have had in past years. In reading over the publications of the Environment Conservation Authority regarding these hearings I was shocked to learn of the extent to which our foothills and mountain areas have been sold out to short- and long-term leases related to non-renewable resources. About 50% of the study area is committed to long-term (25 years or more) allocations and 15% is committed to short-term (3 to 5 years) allocations. These leases or permits are renewable till the exploitation of the resource is completed. In other words we are already too late to save 65% of the study area as it is already set aside for development at the whim of the leaseholder. How a supposedly responsible government could get us shackled by golden handcuffs to such an extent is beyond belief but this is a fact we must now live with. Obviously not all these leases or permits will be developed but the thought that industry has had such preference over other considerations leads one to question why this was all necessary. The land encompassing these commitments holds our best watersheds and game ranges, and as far as I am concerned any actions which would endanger these resources whether by surface destruction, disturbances or any other means must not be permitted. We have had enough examples of the results of these actions to know by now they must be stopped, and the sooner the better.

The ECA has indicated the need for a management policy of public lands which will allow the individual citizen a chance to decide which use will have priorities in which area. Up until now these

decisions have been made almost exclusively by the politicians who supposedly know what's best for all of us. We should have the necessary legislation to compel the government to listen to our demands and act upon them rather than taking it upon themselves to interpret our desires to suit their own political motivations. I am reminded of other hearings in this province and elsewhere which were mere rituals enacted so the governing body could rightly claim that "public hearings were held" to help justify their actions even though the public's aspirations were ignored. The "Wilderness Area" hearings held a few years ago resulted in an almost unanimous demand for MORE wilderness areas with better protection from industrial use, but the government, in direct contradiction, placed a 144 square mile area limitation on these areas and removed the Willmore Wilderness Park from protection of the Act. This move nearly wiped out all the protected land in the province which had taken years to get established. While the area limitation has been removed, the Willmore Wilderness still does not have the protection it should. Any future policy for management of public lands in this province which does not allow individuals and citizens' organizations to have one hand on the steering wheel at all times will be as meaningless as all the so-called conservation legislation we have had in the last 50 years.

A question touched upon in the ECA publications for these hearings was that of land ownership. As far as I am concerned the present public land should remain so, owned and government by all of us. While I believe we can accept development of non-renewable resources under strict regulation and supervision we should not allow such things as tourist accommodations, vacation centres or recreational developments to be constructed on public land. The danger here is one of expansion. We have a proposal from Castle Mountain Resort Ltd. to expand their ski operation on the West Castle river in the Crowsnest Forest Reserve into an all-year recreation resort. If this happens it won't be long until they will have to expand again and again. Other developers will demand the right to do likewise elsewhere and the process

will be repeated. These developments are permanent and while the acreage they occupy is small in most cases the demands and the disturbance factor affect the surrounding landscape for miles in any direction and would undoubtedly affect and interfere with other uses of the area. In the case of West Castle, the adverse effect of the ski resort on wildlife and wilderness has been of a minor nature so far but expansion should only be allowed outside the Forest Reserve. Let us take a lesson from the "pot of gold" lease situation that arose in Banff a few years ago, and control the problem now while we can. Tourist developments can just as easily locate outside the Reserves on non-public land in such areas as the Coleman and Canmore corridors. If necessary we could create a corridor in the North Saskatchewan River Basin around the Bighorn Dam site and along Highway 11 to provide room for recreation centres. In any case I see no reason why we should use any public areas to help make a few wealthy individuals or companies wealthier.

In further studying the ECA reports and reports of other organizations it is clear a conflict of priorities exists nearly everywhere. How then shall we decide which use will be made of which area? A zoning system has merit. I have already mentioned the corridors as the best place for recreation developments. Campgrounds, cottages, resorts, hotels and motels, golf courses, trail riding outfitters and many other outlets could be developed here close to a main highway. The problems of sewage, litter and garbage would be controllable and by keeping the base of operation of recreational pursuits out of the Forest Reserves the damage done to these areas would be lessened.

Further to this concept of zoning, I feel that the alpine and sub-alpine areas of the mountains should be left isolated with no industrial or recreational developments, no roads or cutlines and the use of vehicles, especially snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, prohibited. This would apply also to major game ranges and watersheds. The original sports of hunting and fishing should be allowed in all provincial lands, as under proper management these activities do very little harm.

Perhaps the most important resource our mountains produce is good, clean water. I believe it is of paramount importance to keep our streams and rivers in the watershed area in the best condition nature will allow. This requires minimum disturbance by man, his machines, his industries and his livestock. Exploration for resources has caused much of the damage in the mountains and foothills, and livestock has compounded the erosion problem in the foothills country. These must all be better controlled. Water may well be our richest resource in years to come. Already an American-based concept called the North America Water and Power Alliance has plans drawn up to divert our northward flowing rivers down the Rocky Mountain Trench to replenish their own polluted and mismanaged supplies. While I hope this great flooding of the valleys of the Rockies never happens we cannot ignore the fact that water will become more and more important for our own use in future years and it makes sense to maintain our watersheds in the best condition possible. If we are to avoid the dilemma the Americans now face with water shortages we must place far more importance on the protection of our source of supply and manage it with more concern.

My comments on specific proposals will be confined mostly to the Oldman and Bow River basins, the areas I know best. I have already stated my opposition to development inside the Forest Reserves, and in the Oldman River Basin this would eliminate the Castle Mountain Resort proposal, the Youth Hostels at West Castle and Livingstone Falls and the Coat Creek trail riding operation. The other proposals are located outside the Reserve and could well be accepted. The only regulation on developments outside the public land should be on the size and number allowed in any one location. Let's have our recreation centres but let's not create a monster by doing so.

In the Bow River basin the Assiniboia development of 7,000 acres at Spray Lakes must not be allowed to happen. A project of this magnitude would spell doom for one of the most spectacular tracts of

wilderness we have left in the province. Likewise the Youth Hostels proposed for various locations in the Forest Reserves must also be prohibited. With drug abuse and sexual permissiveness already out of control in our schools and universities I am wondering how anyone would prevent these hostels from becoming real hotbeds of these extra-curricular activities, situated as they would be so far from the arm of the law. The portions of the other proposals which overlap into government land as with Pigeon Mountain Resort and Banff Recreational Resort at Harvie Heights, must be eliminated also. Their clientele will probably use these surroundings areas anyhow but at least we could keep any construction on the far side of the boundary line. Some of the smaller proposals in the Forest Reserve must also be disqualified.

There is one proposal in the Bow River Basin to which I give my whole-hearted support and that is the Elbow-Sheep Recreational Wilderness of the Alberta Wilderness Association. While I support the AWA proposals in general I specifically mention this one because I am quite familiar with the area and know it is still relatively untouched by industry. Its mineral or petroleum wealth must take second place to its fantastic scenery and wilderness characteristics. I have been a member of the AWA since it was formed in 1968 by a group of outdoorsmen who were becoming alarmed at the rate with which our industries were destroying the last pockets of untouched wilderness. Their desire was to have several tracts of land with outstanding wilderness values set aside for use by the people to the exclusion of development of any kind. No mechanized transportation of any kind would be allowed and anyone using the area would walk or ride a horse. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, photography - these were some of the uses but the guiding thought in each case was that man would come as a visitor and leave nothing but his footprints and the ashes of his campfire.

The AWA proposal titled "Elbow-Sheep Wilderness - A Recreational Wilderness for Albertans" is excellent and contains all the assets of the area which make it a great choice for a wilderness area. Set up



as the AWA proposes, this Elbow-Sheep area would be a wonderful achievement in useful conservation. It would make millionaires of no one, yet its values would be available to anyone with the ambition to seek them out. It would not destroy, damage or alter the landscape in any way and this particular watershed would retain its undisturbed productibility for as long as it existed. I urge our government to lose no time in setting the area aside under the AWA definition of "recreational wilderness area".

While on the subject of wilderness areas, I wish once again to urge the government to re-establish the Willmore Wilderness Area to its original size and under the AWA terms, not the present Wilderness Act. The White Goat Wilderness must likewise be restored and enlarged. All wilderness areas in the province must be established or re-established as recreational wilderness areas in line with the AWA definition. I see no use of another tract of land being used as a showpiece when so much of the mountain region is already tied up in National Parks.

There is one other point of contention which has recently arisen that I would like to comment on, and that is the reconstruction and paving of the Kananaskis Forestry Road. While the future use of this paved road has never been satisfactorily explained it is obviously designed as an industrial highway and will be used to facilitate exploitation of the natural resources of the area. The fantastic cost of the project just couldn't be justified if it were aimed at recreational use only. I oppose this paving as an unnecessary waste of public funds. There are other roads skirting the foothills which will be paved in the future anyhow that could just as well serve the purposes of the industrial developers. The Kananaskis Forestry Road should be left as a winding mountain by-way suitable for 40-50 mph traffic and should be used by industrial vehicles only till they reach an access road to the outside highways. It wouldn't cost any more to run a truck on a level road outside the mountains away from the problems of inclement weather than it would to run that same truck up and down mountain

grades in heavy snowfall for a good part of the year. Surely we can afford to have one road in Alberta which would demand of the driver that he leave his speeding tendencies behind and enjoy the country instead. The dust problem can, I'm sure, be subdued also without paving.

In closing this brief, I would like to compliment the ECA on its series of information bulletins. I don't believe we have ever had a more straightforward and revealing source of information on ALL the aspects of the land use problem. I was particularly enthused with Bulletin No.2, the Current Status Report on Alberta's Eastern Slopes, as it is a good measuring stick of past government policies. It must be hoped that this effort will not be in vain and that the hearings will indicate a better way for all of us to use AND enjoy all the resources the study area can provide for us. I trust these hearings will show the way to a better future in which exploitation and conservation will co-exist on equal footing and the values of nature will be made available to use for many years to come.

I thank you for the opportunity to present this brief.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Lickiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent and the last name "Lickiss" written in a more connected, flowing style.

Jeff Lickiss  
Hardieville, Alta.



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by: Gordon Sanders  
Innisfail Fish & Game Association

6 June, 1973.

Environment Conservation Authority,  
9912 - 107th Street,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

The Innisfail Fish and Game Association has prepared this brief for the hearing at Red Deer on June 28th and 29th. Since I may not be able to attend the meeting personally, I wish to have it read and aired.

This Association's aim is to protect the environment by retaining the above area in as natural a state as possible. In this manner, the watershed would be protected, and the downstream users would be ensured of an adequate supply of pure water. Likewise, the wildlife and fish habitat would be maintained in a healthy manner.

The following recommendations were suggested at our Innisfail Fish and Game monthly meeting held on 4 June, 1973.

Yours truly, \*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Sanders".

President and Members of the  
INNISFAIL FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Positively no commercial or private interests or business for the purpose of operating hotels, motels, resorts, swimming pools, cabins, dwellings, golf courses and similar enterprises be permitted in the above Forest Reserves.
2. Strip mining not be permitted in the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River Basins.
3. Cattle and horse grazing leases and permits not be permitted in these forest reserves.
4. Lumbering and forest industry should be permitted to operate, providing the affected areas are properly re-planted with both lumber producing trees, and such plant life as is the most suitable feed for wildlife. All regulations to be strictly enforced.
5. The lease on the Ya-Ha Tinda Horse Ranch to be terminated and the area used as an elk management project.
6. The gas and oil industry should be permitted to operate providing discretion is used and that all damaged areas are restored with grass and plant life.
7. The building of super highways and unnecessary roads be banned.
8. Provincial Government campgrounds only, be permitted.
9. Fishing and hunting to be permitted in all areas with the possible exception of a very few small park-like wilderness areas.

1503

BRIEF  
TO THE  
ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
OF ALBERTA  
PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LAND USE AND RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES OF THE  
ROCKIES

By:

Gerry Bloemhof  
5715 - 133 Avenue #12  
Edmonton, Alberta

July 7, 1973

As a teenager I have canoed the white water rivers of central Wisconsin (Flambeau, Namekagon, Middle and Lower White). For the past eight summers I have spent 1-2 weeks on canoe trips in the Quetico-Superior Canoe Country of northern Ontario and Minnesota and during the past two summers I have spent time canoeing in Mississagi Provincial Park of northern Ontario.

I have been living in Alberta for the past year and this summer for the first time I have the opportunity to become acquainted with the wilderness areas of the mountains and foothills of Alberta by backpacking, hiking and tent camping.

I speak from my experiences and impressions as a person who cannot live without the wilderness and I leave the statistics involved in reasons for keeping the eastern slopes of the Rockies a wilderness area to be brought forward, as they have been, by the people who are qualified.

"All Campgrounds are Full" is the sign to the entrance at Jasper National Park 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The overflow areas are overflowing, some of which are nothing but huge gravel pits. Canadian Parks are crawling with people from south of the border coming to get away from it all. Backpacking trails are becoming overpopulated and campgrounds with 17 sites are crammed with fifty groups of campers.

People are longing to get back to the wilderness and there's more of these people every day. We need all the land we can get our hands on to be put aside in the most natural and wildest state possible to accommodate these people and the ever-increasing number in the future. We need this land now - not after it's been logged, strip mined and every gallon of water polluted.

Companies tell us they're going to carry on their operations with minimal effects to the environment. I believe all effects are major and they all leave an ugly scar on the delicate ecological balance of any wilderness area.

Big business tells us they'll bring prosperity to the people and areas they develop. Well, prosperity doesn't keep one's sanity and there's no sanity in acre-to-acre concrete, living in cardboard boxes and racing vehicles through clouds of carbon monoxide.

I think it's time for some emotion, instead of just letting people tell us how many more dollars they'll make for us. Dollars won't buy back the wilderness and I believe truly as Thoreau did, "In wildness is the preservation of the world."

G. & B. Bremhof

LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Brief submitted by: Eugene M. Grosso,  
Box 526,  
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

It is my feeling that the land use proposals for the Eastern Slopes could be detrimental to the environment and to the big game guides and outfitters, lumbermen, oil and mining explorations and activities and to the citizens in general for the following reasons:

A resort such as the one which is planned for the area at the junction of the David Thompson Highway and the Cline River would take up 800 acres of country which is rich in history, scenic beauty and, most important of all, big game and natural resources.

This resort complex, together with the one which is planned for the lower slope of Mount Cline would (1) destroy - partly if not completely - the watershed in the area of the Cline River, (2) deplete the big game population with the very real possibility that the big game guides and outfitters would be forced to book fewer hunting trips, thus costing the country many thousands of dollars, both in revenue to the Government, and in monies spent in this area by the outfitters in connection with their business, (3) render another very large area inaccessible to the lumbermen, thus limiting their ability, especially in the case of a smaller operator, to remain solvent, (4) curtail any existing or proposed mining operations in this area, which is rich in coal, and (5) prevent further oil explorations in this area at a time when fuel supplies are so short in the United States as to create critical situations in some areas, as well as a projected shortage for Canadian users.

It goes without saying that the industries and businesses I have mentioned provide much revenue in the form of jobs, foodstuffs and supplies required in conjunction with their operations, to say nothing of royalties to the government, which we all benefit from. Thus, I feel that everyone would benefit if the Eastern Slopes were left much as they now stand.

On the other hand, resort complexes such as the "Odyssey" as it is called, and the Mount Cline Resort, as well as the recreation area which is preposed for the Sundre area, would only serve to make a few people very rich by enabling them to charge exorbitant rates for their services and facilities.

One need not mention the fact that these facilities would only be within the reach of the favoured few, while the man on the street would be prevented from enjoying them by reason of the high prices which accompany a development such as this.

This is not to say that I would wish to see industry given a free hand while completely overlooking man's need for recreation, or the desirability of the Eastern Slopes area for this purpose. However, I believe there is an alternative method of providing for outdoor enjoyment which would benefit more people in more ways than the proposed complexes would.

Specifically, it is my feeling that (1) more large campgrounds such as now exist should be provided along or near the David Thompson Highway for the motoring public, and (2) that the proposed youth hostels should be provided for those who prefer hiking. The latter are very necessary in my opinion, since I have seen white frost on the roof of a camp shelter at Seven Mile Flat in the month of July.

It is my feeling that the outfitters in the area along the Eastern Slope are in a position to provide horseback riding facilities (trail rides), guided fishing trips, and trips into the mountains for the purpose of studying and/or photographing nature/big game. Thus, I wish to suggest that save for the necessary development of our natural resources, the aforementioned area should remain as it is, and further that (1) should an oil company be granted a lease in this area and the resultant well(s) be non-productive, the well sites and their access road(s) should be restored as nearly as possible to their original state, and (2) that, should mining continue to progress/expand, the resulting mined-over area should be restored to productivity, i.e. that trees be planted on the

mined-over area as mining progresses, and (3) that lumbermen operating in this area continue to reforest wherever necessary and that their logging roads also be reforested once their usefulness to the logger has ended.

The suggestions are not intended to make it difficult to establish industry in the Eastern Slopes area, but rather it would seem that scenery would be more to be desired than gaping holes in an otherwise beautiful woodland. And closing the access roads after termination of lumbering operations, or in the case of a non-productive oil well, would prevent the non-sportsman hunter from killing big game animals from the cab of a wheeled vehicle, or the seat of a snowmobile, thus protecting the game - to some extent - from overkill.



LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

Presented by Eckville Fish and Game.

Increasing emphasis is being placed on maintaining and improving the quality of our environment. People at a much earlier age are now becoming aware of the need for understanding and appreciation of the things in nature and man's part in nature's pattern.

The young people of today are rapidly developing a desire to take a greater part in various outdoor activities.

This could be accomplished by the purchase and development for suitable land areas outside the park boundary by Provincial Parks Branch, in conjunction with the Province of Alberta and British Columbia. Additional accommodation outside the park boundary should be limited to camping areas such as hiker's alpine huts, shelters and campgrounds with camping facilities (kitchen facilities, toilets, water and garbage disposal areas).

Future planning: The present provincial master plan illustrates the need of proper planning for park usage. Complete studies should be made of all aspects of the park ecology. Any future development should be based on studies made by representative groups of persons including the Department of the Environment.

We, the Eckville Fish and Game Association, go on record to suggest to the Department of the Environment that development in our four main Highway Corridors:

Highway # 3	Crowsnest Pass
Highway # 1	Trans-Canada Banff
Highway #11	David Thompson
Highway #16	Yellowhead Jasper

should be limited development under strict supervision over development areas, both provincial and private. This only should be allowed in the corridors.

One mile on either side of these corridors should be out of bounds for hunting, etc. This would do away with native hunting if the one-mile area on either side of corridor was under the provincial park authority.

Timber should be allowed to be harvested under strict reforestation programmes.

There should be limited grazing under strict supervision.

Twenty-five square mile provincial park at Ram River Falls area. Ram River Falls should be a supervised campsite with 1500 stalls. Also we recommend Crimson Lake and Twin Lakes campsite areas be enlarged, with more stalls to be developed, all preferably with a charge to make them self-sufficient.

If 2500 square miles west of Caroline, as proposed by some, is made into a provincial park, the Eckville Fish and Game feel it would be a waste of our natural and renewable resources. This would be a waste of our timber and game resources.



